

Borough of



Cheltenham

# ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE

# Health of Cheltenham

**Vital Statistics, Sanitary Work, &c.**

FOR THE YEAR

**1949**

BY

DONALD E. MORLEY, M.D. (Lond.), D.P.H.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Together with the Report of  
F. R. JEFFORD, F.R.San.I., F.S.I.A.

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

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*"Salus Populi Suprema Lex"*

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Cheltenham: Norman Brothers, Limited.



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# Health Department Staff

(as at 31.12.48)

<i>Medical Officer of Health</i>	}	Donald E. Morley, M.D., B.S.Lond., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.
<i>School Medical Officer</i>		
<i>Divisional Medical Officer</i>		
<i>Deputy Medical Officer of Health</i>	}	W. R. Perry, M.B., B.S., D.P.H.
<i>Assistant School Medical Officer</i>		
<i>Assistant School Medical Officer</i>	}	Brenda G. King, M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.
<i>Chief Sanitary Inspector</i>		F. R. Jefford, F.R.San.I., F.S.I.A.*
<i>Deputy Chief Sanitary Inspector</i>		J. F. Ursell, M.I.San.E., F.S.I.A., M.R.San.I., D.P.A.*‡
<i>District Inspectors</i>		A. L. Jones, M.S.I.A., San Science R.S.I.*‡ H. Stone, M.S.I.A.*‡ W. L. Booy, M.R.San.I., A.Inst. Housing*‡ G. J. C. Buck, M.S.I.A., A.R.San.Inst.‡
†† <i>Chief Clerk</i>		G. A. Lee.
<i>Senior Clerk</i>		W. H. G. Meakins.
†† <i>Medical Officer of Health's Secretary</i>		Miss G. W. Hiron.
<i>Chief Sanitary Inspector's Secretary</i>		Miss M. D. Heynes.
† <i>Maternity and Child Welfare Clerks</i>		Miss I. Tinning. Miss E. O'Donoghue.
† <i>Junior Clerks</i>		Miss R. B. Claridge. Miss M. E. J. Edden.
<i>Disinfection Officer</i>		G. Cross.

\* Certified Meat and Foods Inspector, R.S.I.

‡ S.I.E.J.B. Certificate.

† Gloucestershire County Council.

†† { 50% Gloucestershire County Council.  
50% Cheltenham Corporation.

NOTE.—For Rodent Control and Abattoir staff see Report of Chief Sanitary Inspector, page 60.

# Annual Report on the Health of the Borough of Cheltenham for the Year 1949

*To His Worship the Mayor, the Aldermen and Councillors of the  
Borough of Cheltenham.*

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The general health of the Borough was satisfactory during 1949.

The general death rate corrected for age and sex anomalies was satisfactory and the infant mortality was again the lowest on record.

The number of notifications of infectious diseases was low and in the case of several diseases the figure was the lowest for ten years.

The death rate for Tuberculosis was the lowest on record. The satisfactory figure recorded was due in particular to the fact that for the first time on record there was not a single death from Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

Many of the services about which information was previously given in this part of the Annual Report now come under the direction of the County Council. A resumé of the County Scheme for Divisional Administration under the National Health Service Act 1948, is included at the end of this report.

A report on the work of the Delancey Fever Hospital during 1949 is again included in the report. Most of the accommodation for infectious diseases from this area will, however, in future, be provided at Over Isolation Hospital, Gloucester.

May I in conclusion take this opportunity of thanking the members of the Council for their continued support in this period of transition and the members of the staff of the department for their undivided attention to the duties of both Authorities.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

DONALD E. MORLEY,

Medical Officer of Health.

### SUMMARY OF GENERAL AND VITAL STATISTICS, 1949

Area of borough	...	...	...	...	...	5,146 acres
Population	{ Census 1931, Corrected Figure					... 49,418
	{ Mid-year, 1949. Registrar General's					64,150 Civilian
	{ Estimate					... 64,190 Total
Number of inhabited houses End 1949	{ (1) structurally separate					... 14,800
	{ (2) Flats, Hotels, Occupied					...
	{ Shops, etc.					... 1,280
Rateable value	...	...	...	...	...	£517,386
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	...	...	...	£2,110

### TABULAR STATEMENT OF THE MAIN VITAL STATISTICS FOR 1949

(with comparative Figures for England and Wales and other Great Towns).

	M.	F.	Totals	Rates per 1,000 Population		
<b>Live Births</b>						
Legitimate ...	539	504	1043	Cheltenham	126 Great Towns including London (average)	Englan and Wales
Illegitimate ...	49	31	80			
TOTALS	588	535	1123	17.5	18.7	16.7
<b>Still Births</b>						
Legitimate ...	11	10	21	0.36	0.47	0.39
Illegitimate ...	1	1	2			
TOTALS	12	11	23	0.36	0.47	0.39
DEATHS ...	364	442	806	12.56	12.5	11.7
<b>Deaths of Infants</b> (Under 1 year of age)						
Legitimate ...	15	16	31	{ Rates per 1 000 Live Births 30.3	37	32
Illegitimate ...	3	0	3			
TOTALS	18	16	34			
<b>Maternal Mortality</b>						
Sepsis ...	—	1		0.87	{ Rates per 1000 Live & Still Births }	0.22
Other Causes ...	—	1		0.87		0.76
TOTALS	—	2		1.74		0.98

### NOTE ON TABULAR STATEMENT

The following points should be borne in mind when considering the comparative figures given above.

The figures for births and deaths are corrected for inward and outward transfers in order that the statistics may give as true a picture as possible of local conditions.



The figures given for England and Wales for Births and Deaths are calculated on the Total Population while for Cheltenham and the Great Towns they are calculated on the Civilian Population, because the figures for local Non-civilian populations are not known.

Other factors relating to the Death rates are referred to under the appropriate heading in the following notes on the Vital Statistics for the year 1949.

## **NOTE ON VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1949**

### **Population**

The Registrar General's estimate of the Civilian population for mid-year 1949 is 64,150. This is 110 less than the estimate for 1948 which was 2,450 higher than the estimate for 1947. The resident non-civilian population is estimated at 40.

For the last two years births have exceeded deaths by about 300 and the demand for houses had certainly not suggested that there has been a diminishing population during 1949.

### **Death Rate**

The crude death rate was 12.5 which is satisfactory. After an interval of 10 years, the Registrar has provided a factor (.89) to correct the local death rate for age and sex distribution so as to give a local figure comparable with the figure for the whole country. Application of this factor gives Cheltenham a death rate of 11.2 compared with the figure of 11.7 for England and Wales, and 12.5 for the Great Towns including Cheltenham.

The factor is .07 higher than the previous figure. This suggests that the average age of the Cheltenham population has decreased relatively to that of the whole country during the last 10 years or that the ratio of Females to Males has increased or more likely that a combination of these factors is responsible.

### **Birth Rate.**

The total number of live births ascribed to Borough Residents was 1,143 compared with 1,099 for 1948, this gives a Birth Rate figure of 17.5 per 1,000 population compared with 17.1 for 1948.

### **Infant Mortality.**

The infant mortality rate for 1949 was 30.3. This is a slight improvement in the figure for 1948 and is again the lowest on record. It compares with the figures of 32 for England and Wales and the average of 37 for the Great Towns.

The actual number of deaths as given by the Registrar was 34. Figures compiled locally show 35 deaths for 1949. The deaths included are the deaths of children under 1 year of age. The classification as to cause of these deaths is as follows :—

<i>Cause of death</i>						No. of deaths
Prematurity	...	...	...	...	...	15
Pneumonia, Broncho-pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	7
Congenital Malformations	...	...	...	...	...	6
Gastro Enteritis	...	...	...	...	...	2
Haemolytic Disease, Rhesus Factor, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	2
Birth Injuries	...	...	...	...	...	2
Accidents	...	...	...	...	...	1
Total						35

The classification of these deaths is necessarily somewhat arbitrary. The final cause of death, for instance, in some cases included under the heading of prematurity might have justified classification under one of the other headings. Prematurity, however, is such an important factor that all cases in which prematurity was mentioned in the death certificate among the causes of death, have been included in the table under this heading.

### **Maternal Mortality**

The Registrar General's figures include 2 deaths from Maternal causes including one from Sepsis.

The death rate per 1,000 live and still births is now so low for the country as a whole (0.98) that the two deaths referred to above give Cheltenham a definitely higher rate (1.64). Chance, obviously, plays too great a part when such low figures are concerned and comparisons of any value must be made over a number of years.

It is a fact, however, that it has not been possible to trace these two deaths in the records available locally. They do not appear either in the Death Returns of the local Registrars or in the transferred deaths received from the Registrar General. There was, indeed, every reason to hope that Cheltenham would have returned a clean sheet for Maternal mortality in 1949.



## POPULATION, BIRTHS, and INFANT DEATHS—10 YEAR PERIOD 1940-49.

	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949
<b>Population</b> (R.G. estimate for Mid-year)	58,480	65,770	62,650	61,260	60,810	59,030	60,540	61,810	64,260	64,190
<b>Deaths of Children</b> under 1 year old	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.
Legitimate	35 12	30 23	33 13	32 25	46 42	23 15	32 20	28 24	25 10	15 16
Illegitimate	2 0	2 2	3 1	6 3	11 6	10 7	6 5	3 1	6 0	3 0
<b>Live Births</b>										
Legitimate	454 386	503 497	565 446	489 544	564 526	499 452	510 546	617 601	506 496	539 504
Illegitimate	23 14	41 39	44 47	63 45	90 59	88 83	77 61	48 47	50 47	49 31
<b>TOTALS</b>	477 400	544 536	609 493	552 589	654 585	587 535	587 607	665 648	556 543	588 535
<b>Still Births</b>										
Legitimate	19 21	21 9	10 5	20 17	14 16	11 13	12 15	12 18	14 17	11 10
Illegitimate	1 1	— 1	2 —	2 2	4 2	4 4	1 1	3 1	1 3	1 1
<b>TOTALS</b>	20 22	21 10	12 5	22 19	18 18	15 17	13 16	15 19	15 20	12 11

# MAIN VITAL STATISTICS—10 YEAR PERIOD 1940-49 (inclusive).

CHELTENHAM					INFANT DEATH RATES Per 1,000 Live Births			TOTAL DEATHS	DEATH RATE Per 1,000 of Population				
YEAR	Estimated Population RG	No. of Births	Birth Rate per 1000 population	Total Deaths of Infants (under 1 year of age)	Cheltenham	Large Towns	England and Wales	Cheltenham	Cheltenham		England and Wales	Tuberculosis (Cheltenham)	
									Recorded	Corrected		Pulmonary	Other
1940	58480	877	14.99	47	48.1	61	55	971	16.6	13.6	14.3	0.49	0.15
1941	65770	980	14.9	53	49.1	63	59	878	13.35	10.9	12.9	0.47	0.08
1942	62650	1102	17.59	46	41.74	59	49	831	13.2	10.87	11.6	0.52	0.08
1943	61260	1141	18.6	57	49.9	58	49	943	15.4	12.6	12.1	0.57	0.07
1944	60810	1239	20.4	105	84.7	52	46	901	14.8	12.15	11.6	0.43	0.18
1945	59030	1122	19.0	55	49.0	54	46	856	14.5	11.89	11.4	0.69	0.14
1946	60540	1194	19.7	52	43.5	46	43	886	14.6	12.0	11.4	0.46	0.09
1947	61810	1313	21.2	56	42.6	47	41	926	15.0	12.3	12.0	0.34	0.097
1948	64260	1099	17.1	35.0	31.8	39	34	770	12.0	9.8	10.8	0.45	0.03
1949	64150	1123	17.5	34	30.3	37	32	806	12.56	11.2	11.7	0.33	0.00

All Causes	1940		1941		1942		1943		1944		1945		1946		1947		1948		1949	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
1 Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2 Cerebro spinal fever	1	2	1	-	2	2	-	1	1	1	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3 Scarlet fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
4 Whooping Cough	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	1	-	-	-
5 Diphtheria	-	-	-	1	1	-	4	2	2	3	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
6 Tuberculosis of the respiratory system	16	13	15	16	19	14	19	16	17	9	20	13	19	8	10	11	16	13	9	12
7 Other forms of tuberculosis	3	6	2	3	2	3	2	2	5	6	4	4	1	5	4	2	1	1	-	-
8 Syphilitic diseases	4	4	8	-	4	1	3	1	2	2	5	1	7	4	5	1	3	1	2	2
9 Influenza	12	9	5	12	1	2	16	21	2	7	2	4	3	5	3	5	1	1	3	3
10 Measles	2	-	1	-	4	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
11 Acute poliomyelitis and polio-encephalitis	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
12 Acute infantile encephalitis	1	-	3	-	1	-	-	-	60	82	47	-	-	-	2	-	1	-	-	-
13 Cancer	39	80	43	63	55	65	49	81	2	7	3	3	58	80	52	85	51	80	59	78
14 Diabetes	7	6	3	3	2	2	6	5	2	2	3	7	4	5	4	4	2	1	1	4
15 Intracranial vascular lesions	25	50	36	52	22	49	26	60	30	68	36	66	38	63	28	61	34	59	44	63
16 Heart disease	107	148	99	146	98	131	104	147	108	156	119	153	118	157	130	190	99	154	122	159
17 Other diseases of circulatory system	11	17	9	15	7	14	13	14	7	9	5	10	4	9	13	13	9	8	8	9
18 Bronchitis	30	45	18	24	22	27	23	24	21	19	18	21	18	14	31	27	22	14	22	10
19 Pneumonia	23	29	24	18	21	17	11	18	19	24	17	20	26	16	16	12	12	7	17	10
20 Other respiratory diseases	11	5	2	4	6	7	11	10	5	3	2	5	3	6	5	1	3	4	-	8
21 Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	7	1	13	2	16	2	9	3	5	2	9	7	5	8	9	5	8	1	9	3
22 Diarrhoea under 2 years	3	-	5	1	4	1	-	3	13	18	5	2	1	2	3	3	7	1	1	1
23 Appendicitis	3	4	3	-	4	1	5	4	3	4	3	-	1	-	-	1	4	1	1	1
24 Other digestive diseases	6	20	15	12	14	12	11	11	7	8	14	10	13	13	9	15	7	12	6	16
25 Nephritis	5	15	15	15	13	15	17	17	10	7	16	15	9	19	16	18	13	12	8	17
26 Puerperal and post abortion sepsis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	1	-	1
27 Other maternal causes	-	3	-	2	-	2	-	1	-	2	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	1
28 Premature birth	10	1	10	7	5	6	12	9	11	10	7	9	10	6	11	7	7	1	4	3
29 Congenital malformations	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
30 birth injury, infant diseases	11	7	6	6	11	5	13	8	9	9	9	6	9	6	8	7	4	7	6	7
31 Suicide	8	2	3	1	3	1	1	1	4	1	4	-	3	5	4	3	5	2	6	3
32 Road traffic accidents	8	5	6	1	8	6	6	1	6	-	5	1	4	-	2	5	3	2	1	2
33 Other violent causes	15	21	12	12	14	15	13	11	8	7	11	5	7	10	4	13	5	6	7	8
33 All other causes	52	58	37	64	33	37	45	48	37	42	23	36	38	44	27	36	29	33	28	20

## WATER SUPPLY OF THE BOROUGH

The Borough of Cheltenham is supplied with water from four sources.

1. The main supply is taken from the River Severn at Tewkesbury and after sedimentation, filtration and treatment with chlorine, is pumped into Reservoirs on the summit of Churchdown Hill. From here it is delivered into a covered reservoir at the Hewletts Works for distribution to the town.

2. The supply of second importance is from the Dowdeswell Reservoir which impounds the waters of the Upper Chelt and a number of springs.

3. The Northfield Springs are collected into reservoirs at the Hewletts Works.

4. Water from a shallow well is pumped directly into Supply at Sandford Works.

The waters are of varying, but reasonable, hardness except for the supply from the Sandford Well, in the case of which the hardness is usually about 40 parts per 100,000 which is high for a public supply.

A full-time analyst, employed by the Cheltenham and Gloucester Joint Water Board, is responsible for the treatment and purity of the water at the Tewkesbury Works.

All supplies are chlorinated.

Samples of water from the other town supplies, that is Dowdeswell Reservoir, Sandford Well and Hewletts Reservoirs are taken by the Medical Officer of Health monthly. These samples are examined and reported on by the analyst of the Cheltenham and Gloucester Joint Water Board.

The following list shows the number of samples examined bacteriologically or chemically (or both) during 1949 :—

<i>Tewkesbury (Supply No. 1)</i>				<i>Samples examined 1949</i>	
Raw River Water	...	...	...	...	51
Coagulated Water at Outlet from Tanks	...	...	...	...	40
Coagulated Water above Filters	...	...	...	...	27
Filtered Water	...	...	...	...	159
Chloraminated Water	...	...	...	...	465
Total				...	742
<i>Cheltenham Supplies (see above)</i>					
Supply No. 2	...	...	...	...	14
„ No. 3	...	...	...	...	16
„ No. 4	...	...	...	...	12
Miscellaneous (Houses)	...	...	...	...	16
Swimming Pools and Spa Waters	...	...	...	...	25
Total				...	83

Grand total of examinations — 825.

The main water supplied has been satisfactory in quality and quantity though certain restrictions were placed on the use of the water during the dry summer of 1948.

During 1949 the owners of a group of 5 cottages supplied from shallow wells were required to provide supplies from the town mains following unsatisfactory reports on samples of water taken by the Medical Officer of Health.

### THE MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATION) REGULATIONS 1936 - 1946

The following licences under the above Regulations were issued by the Cheltenham Borough Council during 1949 :—

#### Type of Licence Issued

	Pasteurisers	Dealer's Bottling	Dealers	Supplementary	Total
(a) Tuberculin Tested Milk	—	4	2	3	9
(b) Accredited Milk	—	—	—	2	2
(c) *Pasteurised Milk	2	1	5	1	9
Totals	2	5	7	6	20

1 Holder Process Plant.

\* 1 H.T.S.T. Plant.

With the coming into force of The Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949, and The Milk (Special Designation) Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949, on the 1st October, 1949, the following additional licences were issued for the period 1st October to 31st December, 1949 :—

#### Type of Licence Issued.

	Pasteurisers	Dealers	Supplementary	Total
(a) Tuberculin Tested Milk	—	11	—	11
(b) Accredited Milk	—	2	—	2
(c) Pasteurised Milk	—	8	—	8
(d) Sterilised Milk	—	—	—	—
	—	21	—	21

The Cheltenham Borough Council issues two licences for Pasteurising Plants.



One apparatus is a pasteuriser of the positive 'Holder' type and a duplicate plant was installed during the year to cover expanding sales.

The other apparatus, installed in a large dairy late in 1948, is a High Temperature Short Time Pasteuriser. It replaced an apparatus which was adapted to the same process during the war. The new apparatus is much more efficient as among other things it includes up-to-date safety devices to ensure that only properly pasteurised milk passes into delivery.

Samples from both plants are taken fortnightly for analysis and the reports are submitted to the Health Committee.

Very few results during 1948 failed to satisfy the standards of the Ministry of Health, though bacterial tests have occasionally been unsatisfactory.

### **THE PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES, 1949.**

The following statement shows the numbers of cases of infectious diseases notified during the year; the corrections in diagnosis and the final numbers arrived at after deduction of these. Tuberculosis is dealt with separately.

The table includes Cheltenham Borough cases only.

Disease	Cases Notified	Diagnosis Corrections	Final Numbers	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever ... ..	46	—	46	—
Diphtheria ... ..	3	1	2	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ... ..	3	—	3	—
Pneumonia ... ..	40	—	40	—
Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis } ... ..	3	1	2	—
Erysipelas ... ..	4	—	4	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	10	—	10	—
Measles ... ..	94	—	94	—
Whooping Cough ... ..	86	—	86	—
Food Poisoning ... ..	8	—	8	—

#### **Note on Infectious Disease during 1949**

Diseases compulsorily notifiable in Cheltenham, apart from Tuberculosis, number 21.

During 1949 Notifications totalling 297 were received in respect of the 10 diseases set out above. Tuberculosis is dealt with separately.

The incidence of infectious disease during 1949 was extremely light. In the last 5 months of the year even measles and whooping cough were almost non-existent.

Diphtheria cases after correction numbered 2, the same as for 1948, and again there was no death.

Poliomyelitis provided 2 cases, a very low figure in a year when there was a general increase in prevalence throughout the Country. This corresponds with the good fortune of 1947, an epidemic year, when Cheltenham had only 3 cases.

### ANNUAL RETURN OF FOOD POISONING NOTIFICATIONS (Corrected).

#### Food Poisoning Notifications

1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter	Total
—	—	8	—	8

#### Outbreaks Due to Identified Agents

Total outbreaks, 1

Total Cases, 4.

This single outbreak was caused by Salmonella Organisms (Typhi Murium).

*Outbreaks of Undiscovered Cause* ... NIL.

*Single Cases* . Agent identified, 1. Unknown cause, 3. Total, 4.

#### *General Note on Food Poisoning*

Notifications of Food Poisoning cases are included in the list of infectious diseases for the first time though some types are not strictly infectious in nature. On the other hand the intestinal infections such as typhoid, notifiable under their own distinctive names are usually caused by the ingestion of food or drink including water and are therefore not essentially different in etiology from the diseases caused by the salmonella or Food Poisoning group of organisms. Some other notifiable infectious diseases are at least occasionally contracted from food and it is possible for instance that Poliomyelitis is frequently spread in this way.

In view of the protean nature of Food Poisoning and the tendency for outbreaks to increase under modern conditions cleanliness in methods and care in production are assuming increased importance. Details of Clean Food Campaigns will be found in the report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector.

#### *Note on Food Poisoning Cases 1949.*

During 1949 eight cases of Food Poisoning were notified four of these were isolated cases and in one of them the infecting organism proved to be Salmonella Typhi Murium.

The small outbreak which included 4 cases in the same family was also due to infection with Salmonella Typhi Murium. The feature of this outbreak was the large number of pets and other animals kept. The complete list included a dog and cat, a hen, 5 cockerels, 11 pullets, 8 baby chicks, 2 rabbits, 4 tame mice and a duck with 7 goslings. The duck had been added to the list a few weeks before the outbreak and it proved to be a carrier of the organism causing the outbreak. Though not laying at the time infection from the duck was obviously carried by crockery which was placed in the run with waste food and then transferred to the kitchen sink.

# NOTIFICATIONS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES 10 YEAR PERIOD 1940—49 INCLUSIVE

Year	Smallpox	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Typhoid Fever	Puerperal Pyrexia	Pneumonia	Polio- myelitis & encephalitis	Erysipelas	Meningococcal Meningitis	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Dysentery	Food Poisoning	Encephalitis Lethargica	Measles	Whooping Cough	Tuberculosis	
1940	—	96	110	1	15	70	1	22	17 CSM	3						55	14
1941	—	54	66	1	25	114	1	12	12 CSM	2				380	344	81	10
1942	—	78	52	—	24	106	2	13	10 CSM	5	2			1297	67	69	19
1943	—	97	109	—	20	67	—	15	5 CSM	3	44	2	2	145	94	76	15
1944	—	141	88	—	11	56	1	19	1 CSM	4				120	134	69	23
1945	—	34	19	—	11	41	—	12	1	4	10			1202	171	59	21
1946	—	52	15	—	25	41	1	14	3	2	2			33	119	65	18
1947	—	108	4	—	18	44	3	14	2	1				1046	192	69	20
1948	—	72	2	—	14	57	1	12		2	4			358	221	53	13
1949	—	46	2	—	3	40	2	4	—	10	—	8	—	94	86	57	7

N.B.—Two cases of Malaria were also notified : 1 in 1942 and 1 in 1945.

## IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA

The Annual return of figures relating to Diphtheria Immunisation required by the Ministry of Health is set out below. The statement relates to the position at the end of 1949.

The estimate of the number of children in the Cheltenham Area under the age of 15 has been provided by the Registrar General.

Age at 31/12/49 i.e. Born in years indicated.	Under 1 1949	1 1948	2 1947	3 1946	4 1945	5-9 1940-1944	10-14 1935-1939	Total under 15
Number Immunised	287	504	711	646	628	3367	3051	9194
Estimated mid- year population of children 1949	<div style="text-align: center;">• (under 5) 5278</div>					<div style="text-align: center;">Estimated Number 5-14 incl. 9036</div>		Total Children 14314

### Percentage of Cheltenham Children Immunised against Diphtheria.

Children of age 8 months up to 5th Birthday ...	...	...	61%
"    "    5 years up to 15th Birthday ...	...	...	71%
Total Children of age 8 months up to 15th Birthday ...	...	...	68%

Children are not immunised before the age of 8 months and are therefore not included in the above table.

The figures given include the number of children immunised by Medical Practitioners from the 5th July, 1948, to the end of 1949. The number immunised by Private Practitioners prior to this date is not known so that the percentage of children actually immunised is appreciably higher than the figures given above.

During 1949 immunisation was completed in 593 cases by Doctors acting on behalf of the Health Authority and in 277 cases by medical practitioners.

In 287 cases immunisation was completed before the age of one year; in 346 cases during the second year; and in 237 cases during subsequent years.

### Re-inforcing doses.

An additional dose is offered at the ages of 5 and 10 years to increase the resistance to Diphtheria of children during school life. During 1949 621 such doses were given by the Health Staff and 10 doses by practitioners.

### Propaganda.

Advantage was taken in the autumn of joining in the National Campaign by the issue of notices in the press encouraging parents to accept immunisation for their children.

Special slides were exhibited at a number of cinemas and window bills were placed in the local buses.

Most parents now recognise the importance of immunisation and the almost complete absence of Diphtheria from the Borough during recent years is a reflection of the success of the scheme which has been in operation for 15 years.



## REPORT ON THE WORK OF THE DELANCEY FEVER HOSPITAL DURING 1949.

During 1949, 134 cases were admitted compared with 139, 184, 152, 253, 349 and 408 during the previous six years.

The following tables show the numbers of types of diseases involved and the area from which the cases came :—

<i>Responsible Authorities</i>						<i>Cases</i>
Borough of Cheltenham	...	...	...	...	...	76
Cheltenham Rural District	...	...	...	...	...	28
Charlton Kings Urban District	...	...	...	...	...	4
North Cotswold Rural District	...	...	...	...	...	10
Cirencester U.D.C. and Cirencester R.D.C.	...	...	...	...	...	8
Stroud	...	...	...	...	...	5
Gloucester R.D.	...	...	...	...	...	3
Total						134

### *Classified Diseases*

Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	49
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	11
Gastro-enteritis	...	...	...	...	...	8
Measles	...	...	...	...	...	7
Tonsillitis	...	...	...	...	...	6
Chickenpox	...	...	...	...	...	6
Erysipelas and Cellulitis	...	...	...	...	...	5
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	4
Puerperal Pyrexia. Pemphigus (Mothers and Infants)	...	...	...	...	...	5
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	3
Jaundice	...	...	...	...	...	2
Meningitis BACILLUS INFLUENZAE	...	...	...	...	...	2
Meningitis STREPTOCOCCUS	...	...	...	...	...	1
Meningitis MENINGOCOCCUS	...	...	...	...	...	1
Poliomyelitis and Encephalitis	...	...	...	...	...	1
Mumps	...	...	...	...	...	1
Miscellaneous, skins, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	7
Observation	...	...	...	...	...	15

### General Notes

The number of cases admitted to the Delancey Fever Hospital during 1949 was 5 less than the number admitted the previous year.

The diseases for which cases were admitted were of even greater variety than usual and are classified above under 18 different headings.



Meningitis cases, though small in number, included two cases in which the causative organism was the bacillus influenzae. In one of these cases streptomycin was made use of for the first time at the Delancey Hospital and the patient made a satisfactory recovery after a course of eight daily intrathecal injections combined with four hourly intramuscular injections. The other was transferred to the Children's Hospital and this child also made a satisfactory recovery following a course of treatment with streptomycin. The case of Streptococcal Meningitis treated with penicillin made a satisfactory recovery.

There was one death in Hospital last year, this was a case of measles with complications.

### Staff

Difficulties in securing adequately trained staff continued throughout the whole of the year. The maintenance of a sufficient night staff was a particularly serious problem.

## TUBERCULOSIS.

### New Cases and Mortality during 1949.

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1 year ...								
1—5 years ...								
5—15 „ ...			1	5				
15—25 „ ...	6	4		1				
25—35 „ ...	11	10			2	2		
35—45 „ ...	12	5			4	4		
45—55 „ ...	2	1				2		
55—65 „ ...	3	1			2	2		
65 and upwards ...	1	1			1	2		
	35	22	1	6	9	12		
Registrar General's Figs.					9	12		

### Death Rates.

The Tuberculosis death rates for Cheltenham during 1949 were as follows:—

Pulmonary Tuberculosis		0.33	} Per 1,000 of Population
Non Pulmonary Tuberculosis		0.00	
Total		0.33	
Comparative Figures	Great Towns average	Total 0.52	
	England and Wales	Total 0.45	

### **Notifications and Deaths**

The number of new cases notified was the lowest since 1940. There was a marked drop in the number of cases of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

Deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis were the lowest ever recorded and for the first time there was not a single death from Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

Housing has presented insuperable difficulties during recent years and the Medical Officer of Health has limited his recommendations for priority with but few exceptions, to families faced with the problem of a case of Tuberculosis. The Housing Committee has always given special consideration to these recommendations.

Disinfectants, paper handkerchiefs and antiseptic soap are provided free on the recommendation of the Health Visitors.

### **Notification and Disinfection.**

The duties of district authorities including non-County Boroughs, have regard largely to the keeping of a register of cases, the supply of articles for preventing the spread of infection and the general supervision of the housing of infected persons.

## **REGISTRATION OF NURSING HOMES**

### **SECTIONS 187-194 OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936.**

At the commencement of 1949 there were 21 Nursing Homes on the Register. During the year 6 were removed and one new registration was effected, leaving 16 homes on the list at the end of the year.

Three of the homes take maternity cases and the number of beds provided for these cases totals 19. Beds for other cases, medical and surgical, total 103. The majority of these accommodate elderly patients many suffering from chronic senile conditions.

During 1949 private Nursing Homes accommodated 243 maternity cases and 452 surgical and medical cases.

All the homes were visited, some on many occasions, and visits totalled 49.

Private Nursing Homes still serve a most useful function in reducing the call on hospital beds under conditions where the demand still greatly exceeds the provision.

### **Removal to Suitable Premises of Persons in Need of Care and Attention (National Assistance Act 1948, Section 47).**

During 1949 the circumstances of 16 persons were investigated with a view to possible action under the new powers given by Section 47 of the National Assistance Act. In two cases husband and wife were involved.

In one case a Court Order was applied for and granted and the person concerned was removed to Hospital where he died a few days after admission.

In another case the Public Health Committee sanctioned an application for a Court Order but the person concerned, who was seriously ill, was persuaded to enter hospital voluntarily before the hearing of the case.

Experience of the working of this section confirms the impressions stated in the last Annual Report.

The relieving officer and the district medical officer are much missed and the dividing line between hospital and hostel cases tends to produce a gap from the administrative point of view.

Action by the Medical Officer of Health is necessarily slow on account of the method of procedure and is not suited to dealing with acute cases.

The wording of the Section is somewhat involved and in particular the requirement that the person must be living in insanitary conditions before action can be taken is surely unnecessary and undesirable. Kind and conscientious relatives and indeed very often neighbours naturally feel that it is inhuman to allow conditions to become insanitary even when they themselves are really unfit to be looking after a patient whose condition warrants admission to hospital but who refuses to be removed. The Home Help service is frequently called on, though for various reasons the cases are usually unsuitable for this type of assistance. However, something has to be done in the emergency and once installed the Home Help cannot allow insanitary conditions to continue though in the absence of these conditions action cannot be taken (under Section 47) to deal with the situation by removal of the patient to hospital.

## **NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE ACT, 1948**

### **DIVISIONAL ADMINISTRATION. BOROUGH OF CHELTENHAM**

#### **Division of County into Areas**

Under the scheme for de-centralisation of administration, the County has been divided into 8 areas which correspond with the areas which were already served by a whole time Medical Officer of Health. The Borough of Cheltenham is one of these areas.

The Medical Officer of Health of the Borough was appointed Divisional Medical Officer of the Cheltenham area and the County will pay the Corporation an agreed fraction of his salary.

Local Health Sub-Committees have been constituted to cover the 8 areas with powers relating to the day to day management of certain services and these have been placed under the supervision of the Medical Officer of Health of the area.

#### **Cheltenham Borough Area Sub-Committee**

The Sub-Committee for this area includes 8 members nominated by the Borough Council and 4 members by the County Council together with the Chairman of the County Council, the Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of the County Health and County Finance Committees and in addition 5 co-opted members.

The scheme requires the Committee to meet at least once a quarter and it has so far met not less frequently than at bi-monthly intervals.

Matters of policy are decided by the County Health Committee but the Sub-Committee makes decisions on general matters of day to day management. The local committee has powers delegated by the Health Committee and approval is only required in respect of items which have not been so delegated or where it is desired to spend money for which no estimate has been made in the annual budget. The Area Sub-Committee is empowered to spend up to £500 on any one item which has been included in the annual estimate.



## **PARTICULAR DUTIES OF THE LOCAL COMMITTEE**

### **DAY NURSERIES**

The Committee is responsible for the general supervision, the control of admissions to, the checking of accounts and minor repairs, of the nurseries.

The appointments of Deputy Matrons and Staff Nurses are made by the Divisional Medical Officer of Health and the routine medical examinations of the children in the Nurseries are carried out by the Assistant Medical Officers.

### **HEALTH VISITORS**

Reports on the work of the Health Visitors are presented at each Meeting and new appointments are made by the local Committee except when vacancies are filled by Health Visitors trained under the County scheme. These Health Visitors are normally allowed a choice of area from those in which there are vacancies and they are required to work in the County for at least one year after taking the Health Visitors' Certificate.

All the Health Visitors cards are made out in the County Office and are passed to the Health Visitors through the Divisional Office.

Health Visitors work under the County Supervisor but consult the Medical Officer of Health on local matters such as housing and maternity accommodation when difficulties arise. They also make reports to the Divisional Medical Officer of Health on special matters such as the circumstances of families making applications for the admission of children to the Day Nurseries.

### **HOME HELP SERVICE**

The County has been divided into 4 areas for the purpose of this service and the original Cheltenham Service now covers a much wider area. The Assistant Organiser is always prepared to make investigations and to assist where possible in cases brought to her notice through the Divisional Medical Officer of Health.

Reports on the work done in the area are presented to the local Committee.

### **CHILD WELFARE CENTRES**

The Cheltenham Infant Welfare Association ceased to be responsible for the management of the Child Welfare Centres on the 31st March, 1949, and the duty of securing 5 voluntary committees to take charge of the Child Welfare Centres in the area fell to the Divisional Medical Officer. The necessary officers and voluntary workers were obtained and the work has continued without interruption. Each Welfare is now a separate unit of the County Federation with a Committee responsible for the running of the Centre. Matters of policy are decided by the County Health Committee.

The Divisional Medical Officer is available to give advice and assistance in day to day management and is responsible for providing a substitute when the Welfare doctor is absent for any reason. It is also his duty to consider the needs of the area and to make recommendations through the Area Committee for the establishment of additional centres.

## **DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION, VACCINATION, ETC.**

### **Diphtheria Immunisation**

Arrangements have been made in the County Scheme in accordance with the requirements of the Ministry of Health for immunisation of children by the family doctor. This has resulted in a steady decline in the numbers attending the clinics of the local authority but there has been a definite improvement in the figure showing the percentage of children immunised.

The improvement in this figure may be associated with the fact that previous to the operation of the new scheme there was no means of ascertaining the number of children immunised privately. The figures, however, suggest that it is at least improbable that the new scheme has had an adverse influence.

Special Clinics are held at the Child Welfare Centres by the doctors in charge and in addition central immunisation clinics are held as required according to the number of requests for immunisation received by the Local Health Authority.

Re-inforcing doses for children on entry to school and at 10 years of age are almost entirely given by the School Doctors on the school premises.

### **Vaccination against Smallpox**

The arrangements for vaccination are similar but are limited to a Private Practitioner service.

### **Immunisation against Whooping Cough**

This form of preventive treatment has only been introduced officially in a very small way to increase the resistance to whooping cough of children attending the nurseries.

The report of the Medical Research Council on the subject of immunisation against whooping cough is awaited before arrangements are made for further developments in this method of protection.

## **NURSERIES AND CHILD MINDERS ACT, 1948**

The duties of registration and inspection under this Act have been delegated to the Divisional Sub-Committees.

Two persons in this Area have already been registered under the Act and requirements have been imposed regulating the number of children permitted to be received in relation to the staff employed.

## **WOMEN'S WELFARE CLINIC**

This clinic provides instruction on birth control and other matters for mothers seeking advice on medical grounds. Appointments are made through the Divisional Office.

## **HEALTH PROPAGANDA**

The Medical Officer of Health for the area acting under the Divisional Health Committee is responsible for Health Education in respect of the matters dealt with locally under the Divisional Scheme.

The Committee has agreed to the distribution of 250 copies monthly of the Magazine "Better Health."

During the autumn, arrangements were made for the insertion of a series of notices and advertisements regarding Diphtheria Immunisation in the local press. Notices have also been placed in the local buses.

The Child Welfares are used as centres for various forms of health propaganda and the display of suitable posters.



# ENVIRONMENTAL HYGIENE

## ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1949.

*To His Worship the Mayor, the Aldermen and Councillors of the  
Borough of Cheltenham.*

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I herewith submit my report of the administration of the Chief Sanitary Inspector's Department for the year 1949, being my twenty-second as an Executive Officer of this Authority.

The year under review has shewn the wisdom of the determined efforts to reorganise the administrative section of the department with particular reference to the clerical and statistical work, the latter was greatly assisted by the appointment of experienced staff. The results were reflected in the increased amount of work carried out, and the District Inspectors were relieved of unnecessary clerical labour; thus enabling them to deal with greatly augmented duties. The Public Health Committee will remember that I submitted reports on the staffing of the Chief Sanitary Inspector's Department in March and July. This was imperative having regard to the increase of population by 12,000 persons since 1939, and the necessity of one District Inspector being wholly engaged on meat inspection at the Public Abattoir, which serves areas having a total population of approximately 100,000 persons.

Further developments in the realm of environmental hygiene are always placing new responsibilities upon the Inspectorate. The Departmental work must not be gauged by statistical detail, valuable as this may be, but by the day to day record of work done, conscientiously and thoroughly. It is, therefore, pleasing to record that the Committee recommended that the temporary Sanitary Inspector be placed on the establishment as a District Inspector.

To answer a hypothetical question on the improvement of domestic housekeeping, I look back over a period of some forty years in the Public Health service, and the change is remarkable in so far as the lower paid workers are concerned; gone are the frequent cases of abject poverty, neglect and indifference, together with scanty furnishing. A well-known writer made some interesting disclosures from questions set by a team of experts who interviewed a large number of people. Today it would appear that the husband takes a more active share in the domestic chores, and the five-day working week has tended to contribute to the improvement in the general cleanliness of the homes of the workers, the occupants and their children.

The Milk and Dairies Acts and Regulations, 1949, revolutionised the Public Health administration of the farm and dairy industry. Since the 1st October, 1949, all dairy farms are the concern of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, and not of a local authority. It is regretted that the legislators did not prevent some of the overlapping of authorities and duties that must inevitably occur with this new Milk legislation. That it is, in general, an improvement and that progress has been made in some directions, few will doubt. This Borough Council, being a Food and Drugs Authority, continues to be responsible for the administration of the pasteurising and sterilising plants within the Borough.

Some changes of staff have occurred during the year — I was sorry to lose Miss M. I. M. Price, my personal secretary, who resigned in July on the occasion of her marriage, she has, however, been replaced by Miss M. D. Heynes.

I am pleased to record that my Deputy, Mr. J. F. Ursell, has been elected a Fellow of the Sanitary Inspectors' Association, following the acceptance of his thesis.

Mr. W. L. Booy, District Sanitary Inspector, has been successful in passing the direct Final Examination of the Institute of Housing (Housing Management section).

The appointment of Mr. G. J. C. Buck as a permanent District Inspector has been confirmed during this year by the Ministry of Health.

In accordance with the instructions of the Ministries of Health and Food and the Home Office, tables giving full particulars of the inspections made, together with notes and local information will be found in the Report.

I wish to take this opportunity of recording my thanks to the Public Health and other Committees of the Council, also to express my appreciation to the other Chief Officers and their staffs for their co-operation.

With pleasure I once again record the loyal and valued assistance rendered to me by my Deputy, Mr. J. F. Ursell, and the District Inspectors and Staff in my Department. The Department has worked exceedingly well in an endeavour to cope with the mass of legislation and the housing neglected as a result of the war. The statistics submitted of work performed shew only part of the contribution made in helping to safeguard the health and well-being of the population.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

F. R. JEFFORD,

F.R.San.I., F.S.I.A.

## RIVERS POLLUTION

The condition of the River Chelt and its tributary streams has, during the year, given rise to some anxiety. It will be appreciated that, in a built-up area such as Cheltenham, it is an extremely difficult matter to keep a strict observation on the River. It is small, and winds its way through the town behind factory buildings, gardens, and houses, and is culverted throughout a considerable portion of its length. The Corporation have, from time to time, cleansed stretches of the River which are their responsibility, and the duties of the riparian owners have been stressed where the conditions justify.

Some sixteen samples have been taken of effluents, streams, and river water. In one case of a sewage disposal scheme discharging into the River, the biological oxygen demand was more than the maximum allowed, and the suspended solids were excessive. These conditions were remedied after attention to the filters.

A fellmonger was found to be discharging directly into the River an effluent that contained large quantities of organic refuse which also had a very high oxygen demand, in addition to very excessive matters in suspension. An alteration was made to the drainage system, and the discharge was completely diverted from the stream.

Another factory occasionally discharged into one stream the residue from its chrome treatment plant. The amount of chrome compounds found in the stream were sufficient to be injurious to fish life. Recommendations were made to the firm for improvement of the pre-treatment plant and subsequent samples have been satisfactory.

At the request of the Gloucester Agricultural Executive Committee who had received an application from a Milk Producer for a Tuberculin Tested licence, an investigation was carried out in the lower reaches of the River, and the water at this point was fairly satisfactory for river water.

The pollution of the Chelt by effluents from the Gas Works both by direct discharge and into a stream that eventually found its way into the River, is a constant source of concern to the Department. The pollution at one source coloured the river for a mile of its length. Following representations this practice has now ceased, and no further recurrence has been found. There remains, however, sporadic discharges of wastes often at high temperature with oil and tarry matters that the Public Analyst has stated are completely unfit to be discharged into any stream. Some progress has been made in pre-treatment by the Gas Board, but the matter is still most unsatisfactory.

### **Water Supply**

Five cottages were found to be supplied only with shallow well water, which, on analysis, proved to be unfit for consumption. Samples taken after heavy rain established this fact. Notices were served under the Water Act, 1945, and the Public Health Act, 1936, and a mains supply was laid on to the sink and W.C. in each case.

### **Offensive Trades**

Thirty three visits were made to premises on which offensive trades were carried on during the year. These premises have been satisfactorily maintained, and very few complaints have been received in connection with them. On representations being made to the occupiers, the cause of the complaints was immediately rectified.



### SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

The following Tables show the amount of Routine Inspection work performed by the District Sanitary Inspectors. The total number of complaints received in the Department during 1949 was 1,152.

#### SUMMARY OF SANITARY INSPECTORS' VISITS

TABLE I

##### General Sanitation

Water Supply	...	...	...	...	...	48
Drainage	...	...	...	...	...	2,862
Stables and Piggeries	...	...	...	...	...	13
Offensive Trades	...	...	...	...	...	33
Fried Fish Shops	...	...	...	...	...	51
Common Lodging Houses	...	...	...	...	...	32
Houses—Let in Lodgings	...	...	...	...	...	—
Tents, Vans and Sheds	...	...	...	...	...	72
Factories	...	...	...	...	...	846
Workplaces	...	...	...	...	...	7
Outworkers	...	...	...	...	...	80
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	57
Public Conveniences	...	...	...	...	...	24
Theatres and Places of Entertainment	...	...	...	...	...	18
Refuse Collection	...	...	...	...	...	735
Refuse Disposal	...	...	...	...	...	16
Smoke Observations	...	...	...	...	...	56
Schools	...	...	...	...	...	7
Shops Acts Section 10						
(a) Registration	...	...	...	...	...	—
(b) Revisits	...	...	...	...	...	547
Miscellaneous Sanitary Visits	...	...	...	...	...	162
Interviews	...	...	...	...	...	743
					Total	6,409

TABLE II

##### Housing

<i>Under Public Health Acts</i>						
No. of Houses inspected	...	...	...	...	...	598
Re-Visits	...	...	...	...	...	1,269
<i>Under the Housing Act</i>						
No. of Houses inspected	...	...	...	...	...	204
Re-Visits	...	...	...	...	...	986
<i>Overcrowding</i>						
No. of Houses inspected	...	...	...	...	...	39
Re-Visits	...	...	...	...	...	2
<i>Verminous Premises</i>						
No. of Houses inspected	...	...	...	...	...	24
Re-Visits	...	...	...	...	...	14
Miscellaneous Housing Visits	...	...	...	...	...	77
					Total	3,213

TABLE III

**Infectious Diseases**

Inquiries in Cases of Infectious Disease	...	...	4
Visits re Disinfection	...	...	10
Miscellaneous Infectious Disease Visits	...	...	8
Total	...	...	22

TABLE IV

**Food Inspections, etc.**

<i>Inspection of Meat</i>			
Visits to Abattoir	...	...	112
Visits to other premises	...	...	—
<i>Registrations and Inspections</i>			
(Food and Drugs Section 13 and 14)			
Butchers	...	...	68
Fishmongers and Poulterers	...	...	35
Grocers	...	...	36
Greengrocers and Fruiterers	...	...	14
Cowsheds	...	...	20
Dairies and Milkshops	...	...	53
Ice-cream premises	...	...	139
Food Preparing Premises	...	...	188
Market Stalls	...	...	37
Restaurants and Hotel Kitchens	...	...	271
Street Vendors and Hawkers' Carts	...	...	—
Food Inspection and Condemnation Visits	...	...	607
<i>Visits in connection with sampling</i>			
Milk—Bacteriological	...	...	23
Food and Drug Samples	...	...	238
Miscellaneous Food Visits	...	...	59
Total	...	...	1,900

TABLE V

**Rivers Pollution**

Visits and Inspections in connection with sampling	...	23
Total of Tables I, II, III, IV and V	...	11,567



**NOTICES SERVED.**

During the year the following notices were served :—

	<i>Informal Notice</i>		<i>Statutory Notices</i>	
	<i>Served</i>	<i>Complied</i>	<i>Served</i>	<i>Complied</i>
Public Health Act, 1936	441	528	54	63
Factory Act, 1937	41	37	—	—
Food and Drugs Act, 1938	18	26	2	2
Housing Act, 1936	2	2	1	1
Shops Act, 1934	1	1	—	—
Water Act, 1945	5	5	—	—
	<hr/> 508	<hr/> 599	<hr/> 57	<hr/> 66

Some of these notices complied with were outstanding from the previous year.

**Information in regard to Land Charges**

My Department is responsible for supplying information under the Land Charges Act on receipt of an Official Search in respect of all properties in the Borough, which are subject to orders under the Housing Act, 1936, and Statutory Notices under all Acts.

Requests for information were received and dealt with in respect of 1,239 properties.

**MOVEABLE DWELLINGS**

It may be remembered that in my Annual Report for 1948 it was stated that the whole question of Moveable Dwellings had been considered at a meeting of the Public Health Committee, when it was decided to endeavour to overcome this problem by the provision of a Municipal Camping Site.

During the year investigations were carried out with the co-operation of the Borough Surveyor to try and obtain a suitable site. It was not, however, an easy matter to find any land suitable for this purpose within the confines of the Borough. An approach was, therefore, made to the owner of the land which was already licensed for twenty caravans, to obtain his views on the possibility of extending his site to an area large enough to accommodate approximately fifty caravans, together with the laying of good access roads, drainage, etc. The owner considered the matter, but was of the opinion that the cost of laying out the site as required by this Department, together with all essential services, was more than he could undertake.

This matter was again reported to the Public Health Committee in March, 1949, when it was decided that a further endeavour should be made to find land suitable for use as a Camping Site. I am unable, at the end of the year, to report any success in this direction.

There are still only two licensed caravan sites in the Borough, both of which are on the Gloucester Road. One site is licensed for twenty caravans, and the other for two ; the sites are fully occupied.

The year 1949 produced an unusual number of caravans sited on unlicensed land in the Borough, and it was found, on interviewing the occupants, that, in the majority of cases, they were quite unaware that any law existed which made it an offence to station a caravan for more than forty-two consecutive days in any one place. It appears to me that some form of publicity should be given to this matter, especially in view of the fact that, with the present housing shortage, persons of moderate means are investing in caravans, with the object of siting them permanently, only to find themselves hounded from site to site with little or no chance of obtaining a licence.

I am of the opinion that, in a Borough of this type, a Municipal Camping Site should be established. The Department receives many enquiries from people who wish to station caravans for only short periods, also from people who are passing through with caravans and desire only a transit stop. This scheme could be self-supporting, and, in view of the continued rising cost of living, there is little doubt that the use of caravans will receive still greater stimulus during the next few years.

#### DISINFESTATION.

No. of Rooms treated for Bug Infestation	...	...	269
"          "          Flea          "		...	37
"          "          Other         "	...	...	3
No. of Articles treated	...	...	393

#### Rehousing of displaced families.

No. visited	...	...	...	...	2
No. premises treated	...	...	...	...	2
No. articles treated	...	...	...	...	10

#### Removal of Articles for Destruction.

No. of articles removed for destruction	...	...	...	56
No. of visits	...	...	...	412
No. of re-visits	...	...	...	263
No. of special visits	...	...	...	769
			Total	2,216

#### DISINFECTION.

##### Infectious Diseases

No. of Visits made	...	...	100
No. of articles steam disinfected	...	...	608
No. of Premises fumigated	...	...	83
No. of articles disinfected for Authorities outside Borough area	...	...	264
No. of articles disinfected for private requests (not infectious)	...	...	342
		Total	1,397

## Factory Act, 1937

Routine inspections of factories, workplaces, and outworkers, were continued throughout the year, and in addition to the statutory duties a complete survey of all factories within the Borough was carried out during the early part of the year.

The survey was found to be necessary owing to the surprising number of factories which mushroomed during and since the war, making the existing register inaccurate. Each factory had to be visited, up-to-date information obtained, and recorded, and a new register duly compiled.

With the kind co-operation of H.M. Inspector of Factories at Gloucester, a complete list of all factories on her register was obtained; this was followed up by the survey during the course of which 846 inspections were made.

The large number (there being only 458 factories in the Borough) was due almost entirely to the necessity of visiting small factories on the old register, which no longer employed persons and numerous small one-man concerns which have sprung up since 1946.

The new register lists 106 non-powered factories, 350 powered factories, 1 sub-station (Midlands Electricity Board) and one building site, totalling 458 factories; 9% of these have been the subject of notices during the year. This figure representing 41 notices is remarkably low when one considers the number and type of factories that have been fitted into premises that were not originally designed for industrial purposes.

### FACTORY ACT 1937

The following tables show the work carried out during the year :—

#### 1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to Health, (including inspections made by District Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises	Number on Register	Number of	
		Inspec- tions	Written Notices
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are enforced by the Local Authority ... ..	106	201	1
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ... ..	350	644	40
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ...	2	1	—
Totals ...	458	846	41

## 2. Cases in which Defects were found.

Particulars	Found	Remedied
Want of Cleanliness (S.1) ... ..	1	1
Overcrowding (S.2) ... ..	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) ... ..	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) ... ..	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) ... ..	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7) ... ..		
(a) insufficient ... ..	6	4
(b) unsuitable or defective ... ..	28	25
(c) not separate for sexes ... ..	6	4
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) ... ..	—	—
Totals ...	41	34

## 3. Outwork—Sections 110 and 111 of the Factories Act, 1937.

Nature of Work	No. of outworkers in list required by Sec. 110 (i) (c)		Section 111 Notices Served
	February List	August List	
Wearing apparel (Making, etc.)	45	39	—
Curtains and Furniture Hangings	2	1	—
Furniture and Upholstery	1	1	—

## Ventilation of Theatres and Cinemas

During the year visits were made to five cinemas, and two theatres, during evening performances, and Kata readings taken.

These Kata Thermometer readings give the cooling power of the air, and the rate of heat loss which, combined with standard temperature readings, give a sound indication of the efficiency of the heating and ventilating system.

In two cases, the condition of the atmosphere was unsatisfactory. In one of these cases, after interviewing the Company's Engineer, alterations were made in the system of running the extraction fans, and on the second test a great improvement was shewn. In the other case, the matter remains under consideration and a report will be made when the next application for licensing of these premises is received. It is felt that a report from the Chief Sanitary Inspector should be called for when these licences are considered, in the same way as the reports of the Fire Chief and Building Inspector are taken into consideration in their respective spheres to ensure the safety of the public.



## SMOKE ABATEMENT

A Petition, signed by 23 people, all living in one Street in the Borough, was received in February, complaining of smoke and dust emission from an adjacent factory. The petition stated that the dust (unconsumed fine coke dust) was penetrating to rooms, even into milk bottles and food in larders.

When this matter came before the Public Health Committee, and not for the first time, it was stated that the premises concerned were kept under regular observation. It was known, however, that the boilers and apparatus were unsatisfactory, but that the Company had had on order since February, 1947, new boiler and plant to the value of £10,000. Arrangements had been made for the Regional Fuel Engineer and a Stoker Demonstrator to visit in December, 1948. Following this visit some improvement had taken place. A letter from the Ministry of Fuel and Power, which was read to the Committee, stated the Company seemed to be making a determined effort to mitigate the smoke and dust nuisance whilst awaiting the new plant ; the prospect of obtaining early delivery of the latter, however, was no brighter.

Enquiries were made at the factory concerned, and it appeared that the excessive emission of smoke and dust which was the subject of the petition was due to one old boiler being brought into use while the regular boilers were being examined. The Company regretted the nuisance, but stated it was only on very rare occasions that this particular boiler was used. The firemen concerned had attended an instructional class held by the Ministry of Fuel at Gloucester, and much appreciated this course.

In April, 1949, another petition was received from residents living close to a factory, complaining of noise and noxious effluvia. The complaint of noise, caused by the extractor fans, was referred to the Planning Committee, and on representations being made to the owner of the factory, he agreed to carry out further work to the vents. A central duct was replaced by a battery of smaller ducts carried up to a higher level, and another duct at the side of the factory was carried up to ridge level. No further complaint was received after the completion of these works.

A complaint was also received in April concerning smoke nuisance from a laundry. This laundry had also been the subject of previous complaints. The owner, who had always co-operated with the Department, in an effort to overcome this nuisance, had been in communication with the Coal Board in an endeavour to obtain a better type of coal. It was understood that this would shortly be forthcoming, when it was hoped there would be no further cause for complaint.

This better type of coal did not, however, materialise, and a communication was made to the Ministry of Fuel and Power on this matter. Subsequently in September, an inspection of the factory plant was made by members of the Coal Board, who submitted a long report to the owner. No reason, however, could be found for the smoke nuisance, and the final paragraph of the report questioned whether the very occasional emission of smoke from this plant did constitute a nuisance of any dimension.

September, 1949, brought yet another petition signed by 47 residents living in the neighbourhood of the local Gas Works, complaining of smoke, dust and fumes. These works have, of course, been a potential source of nuisance in this respect for a number of years.

At a meeting between the Station Engineer, the Divisional Production Officer and myself, it was agreed that the Horizontal Retorts were unsatisfactory, but it was pointed out that replacement by other suitable apparatus involved numerous technical problems, and the production of gas by such means was still in the experimental stage. Plant had, however, been received at the works to replace, as a trial, two of the horizontal retort tubes, and it was intended to start this work soon.

It was contended that, since a previous discussion on the nuisance caused by the Jones Plant, alterations had been effected which greatly reduced smoke emission.

With regard to the Economic Boiler, owing to the fuel shortage, and the Board's policy to conserve Winter stocks of the better grade coke for consumption by the public, this apparatus was designed and installed to burn low grade fine coke, which is little better than coke dust.

The boiler is equipped with grit extractors, which, working under normal conditions, guarantee 90% efficiency. The fuel is such that the tubes have to be cleansed at intervals of about four hours, and during this operation the large amount of grit emitted reduces the efficiency of the extractors to about 60%. The Board's representatives expressed concern at the grit nuisance caused by the boiler, and admitted that it was not working satisfactorily. The matter had been reported to the makers of the plant, and steps to remedy the nuisance were being taken.

The position at the close of the year could not be considered satisfactory, dust and grit continued to be emitted from the various plants, tipping of carbon black and other grit occurred which resulted in occasional clouds of dust sweeping across the streets. It must be stated, however, that the authorities concerned have made some effort to minimise the nuisances, though with only partial success.

## HOUSING

### Housing Act, 1936.

The following action under the above Act was taken during the year (1948 figures for comparative purposes) :—

	1948	1949
(a) Closing Orders (Basements) ... ..	24	10
(b) Closing Orders (Parts of Houses, etc.) ... ..	4	2
(c) Closing Orders determined ... ..	2	7
(d) Demolition Orders ... ..	4	2
(e) Undertakings to render premises fit ... ..	2	3
(f) Undertakings to render premises fit complied ... ..	2	6
(g) Undertakings not to use premises for human habitation ... ..	2	—
(h) Houses demolished ... ..	9	3

It will be seen from the above table that the number of Closing Orders made during the year was under half the number of those made in the preceding year, 1948. This was not due to any great alleviation of the housing problem nor to a cessation of complaints, and the list of underground rooms urgently requiring attention has increased; it was due solely to the difficulty of re-housing the families on whose underground dwellings such action had been taken. To intensify a policy of closing unfit basements, knowing that it would in no way alleviate the shocking conditions under which most of the inhabitants were living, could not be considered. This was confirmed by an analysis made early in the year when some basements were still occupied on which Closing Orders had been made one to two years previously.

A provisional arrangement has now been made, that, when the existing accumulation has been dealt with, the Housing Committee agree to allocate four or five houses per month to re-house the occupants of basements and houses condemned by the Council.

The past year has seen the inception of a new policy outlined in the Housing Act, 1949. The absence of any reference to the term "working class" and its deletion from the Housing Act, 1936, now brings all houses within the scope of the Housing Act. The Ministry have also agreed on a new standard of fitness—that any house dealt with in relation to Improvement Grants under the 1949 Act should have a life of thirty years. Grants of not more than half the estimated cost of £100—£600 may be given by the Local Authority. This new Act is a development of our work carried out under the 1936 Act; to ensure complete co-ordination, the question of whether premises comply with the regulations for underground rooms, or are in a potential clearance area that may be dealt with before the expiration of the thirty years guarantee, and the fact that the Medical Officer of Health and Sanitary Inspector have always been the authorities to state whether or not a house is in all respects fit for human habitation, indicate that all applications should be submitted to the Health Department for their consideration, prior to approval of the Council.

It is further considered that the time is ripe for a detailed housing survey. This is necessary not only from the point of view of the Housing Act, 1949, but to give the local authority accurate data on which they may base their re-housing programme. It must, however, be coupled with power to make clearance areas and orders within a reasonable time, which will entail a considerable increase in the housing programme.

### **Common Lodging Houses**

There is one common lodging house in Cheltenham, and it was first registered in 1910 as a model of its type. A few years ago there were eleven houses with accommodation for 195 people. Whilst the requests for this type of accommodation have increased the number of houses licensed has been gradually reduced. It is true that there is a considerable change in the personnel frequenting these premises, there are few real vagrants, and many of the lodgers are imported labourers working on building and development sites where no hostels are provided. It would be extremely difficult for this type of man to secure lodgings in a private house.



At this registered common lodging house an extension was completed during the year at a cost of £500, to provide additional store rooms, locker accommodation, and a shower bath. The open fire grate in the common room was replaced by a large range fitted with a hot water boiler, the hot water supply to the shower bath being controlled by a mixing valve; this hot water was also laid on to the sinks. The premises and beds are treated with D.D.T. spray at regular intervals as a preventative measure and no evidence of vermin infestation has been found.

The charges have increased but little over the pre-war prices, being 1/6 per night compared with the 1939 charge of 1/-.

### Ice-Cream Premises

Applications received during 1949, under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, for the registration of premises for the manufacture and/or sale of Ice-cream, have exceeded in number those made in any other year since the coming into force of the Act. 31 applications for the storage and sale, and two applications for the manufacture, storage, and sale of ice-cream were received, and registrations issued. This sharp increase is due, of course, to the easing of supplies.

On receipt of each application the premises proposed to be used are given a thorough inspection by the District Inspector. Few premises can be recommended for registration without certain works being carried out, and in several cases quite extensive alterations were necessary before they could be made to comply with the regulations. One proprietor built new premises for the manufacture of ice-cream on a small scale, to the Department's requirements. The equipment comprised pasteuriser, homogeniser, cooler, refrigerator, and steriliser. The internal walls were tiled, and constant hot water laid on. In another case premises were re-constructed, following representations to the occupier. This involved improvements to light, ventilation, and tiling of all walls, new floor, etc.

Frequent visits were paid to all manufacturers and retailers and the standard of hygiene was generally found to be good. Even so, of the 22 samples of Ice-cream taken for Bacteriological examination, eight were found to be unsatisfactory.

On receipt of these unsatisfactory reports, visits were made to the premises concerned, and the vendor advised as to possible sources of contamination. In one case at least, it was found that, following an Inspector's visit and advice to the vendor, the subsequent sample was reported on as bacteriologically satisfactory.

In accordance with Ministry of Food Circular 3/49 dated 1st April, 1949, copies of all ice-cream samples taken for chemical analysis were forwarded to Liaison Division (Foods Standards and Food Hygiene), 47 Portman Square, London, W.1.

Although the Circular stated that the use of a minimum fat content of 2½% was not to be interpreted as meaning that this figure is regarded by the Ministry as a proper standard for ice-cream, it is thought that this could have been set at a much higher level. This is indicated by the fat content shown in 12 samples taken by this department. In only two cases did the fat content fall below 3%, in one case it was as high as 11.54%, the average being 6.82%.



**Modern Ice-cream Manufacturing Premises**

These premises are situated in a very congested area. The owner is handicapped in that the area has been scheduled as a re-development area under planning, and therefore all new buildings are subject to a short life period.



(a) View of Pasteuriser, Homogeniser, Cooler and Cold Storage Tank.





In a recent report in the British Food Journal it stated that a vendor was fined for selling ice-cream to the prejudice of the purchaser. The Prosecuting Officer informed the Magistrates that this was one of the many cases where there was no statutory standard for this particular food, and they (the Magistrates) had to decide on the evidence before them what was a reasonable standard for the article concerned. It was also stated that the samples in question showed, on analysis, to contain 1.6% of fat only, whereas rarely did samples of ice-cream fall below 4% and the majority were of a very much higher quality, the average being 8%. The defendant pointed out that in the shop there was no reference to ice-cream, but the term "ices" was used, also that there was no fixed standard for this commodity, and the purchaser made no reference to the quality desired.

The manufacturers of ice-cream are now receiving the necessary supplies to produce a good quality ice-cream and the laying down of a standard by the Ministry of Food would prohibit a certain type of manufacturer from flagrantly selling to the public a food which is not nearly of the quality that should be expected. In the case quoted above, the Magistrates, in their wisdom, agreed that from the evidence produced the standard was not reasonable, and imposed a fine, but with no legal backing to even the suggested low standard of  $2\frac{1}{2}\%$ , the contemplation of proceedings would, in the majority of cases, be approached only with the utmost caution.

Number of premises registered for the storage and sale of ice-cream	79
Number of premises registered for the manufacture, storage and sale of ice-cream     ...     ...     ...     ...     ...	17
Number of premises registered for the manufacture of ice-cream only     ...     ...     ...     ...     ...	1
	<hr/>
Total registered premises     ...	97
	<hr/>

## **Restaurants and Hotel Kitchens**

Frequent visits have been paid to hotels, restaurants, and cafes during the year. A great effort has been made to bring all such premises into compliance with the requirements of Section 13, of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, and considerable improvements have been effected.

The lay-out of kitchen and preparation rooms, the provision of easily cleaned wall and floor surfaces, tables, etc., and the correct technique for washing crockery, cutlery, and kitchen utensils, have all been the subject of investigation by the District Inspectors. Some excellent results have been achieved, particularly when new premises are under consideration.

It must be accepted, however, that the greater proportion of hotels and restaurants are often existing buildings ill-adapted for the purposes. The expenditure involved in re-organising and re-equipping such establishments is a formidable item. In this connection the limitation of Section 13 must be borne in mind.

## **Food Preparation Premises**

These premises registered under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act 1938, have been regularly inspected. Considerable improvements have been effected during the year especially in the provision of constant hot water and adequate washing facilities.

In one case the premises have been referred to the Public Health Committee for the cancellation of the registration.

## **Model By-laws**

The Council have submitted to the Ministry of Food for confirmation the By-laws relating to the handling, wrapping and delivery of food, and the sale of food in the open air. These are based on the Model By-laws and constitute considerable progress in legislation in relation to the handling of food. When in force it will be necessary to return fish containers, ice-cream cans and returnable biscuit tins in a clean condition. Food can no longer be wrapped in any material which is not clean, thus prohibiting the use of old newspapers for the direct wrapping of articles of food.

## **Bakehouses**

Routine inspection of these premises was carried out during the year, and in the main were found to maintain a satisfactory state of cleanliness. Some of the premises are outdated, however, and could only be brought up to standard by complete re-construction.

One small bakehouse was re-constructed so as to give adequate natural light and ventilation.



## INSPECTION OF FOOD.

## Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

In accordance with the Ministry of Health requirements, the following samples were taken :

<i>Commodity</i>	<i>Formal</i>	<i>Informal</i>	<i>Commodity</i>	<i>Formal</i>	<i>Informal</i>
Borax, powdered ...	—	1	Milk ...	155	4
Brawn, Belgian ...	—	1	Mincemeat ...	2	—
Butter ...	1	—	Olive Oil ...	—	2
Celery Salt ...	—	1	Paste Crab ...	—	1
Cinnamon Ground ...	—	1	Pectin, Fruit ...	1	—
Cochineal ...	—	1	Pepper, White ground ...	—	2
Coffee ...	—	1	Pie, pork ...	—	1
Colouring, Fish Fillet ...	—	1	Port ...	1	—
Cordial, Black-currant Juice	1	—	Purée, Apple ...	1	—
Curry, Paste ...	1	—	Sage and Onion ...	1	—
Curry, Powder ...	—	1	Salad Cream ...	2	—
Custard Powder ...	—	1	Sandwich Spread ...	—	1
Doughnut ...	1	7	Sausage ...	1	—
Fat, frying ...	—	1	Sausage, Beef ...	2	—
Flour, Self-raising ...	1	—	Sausage Meat ...	1	1
Friars Balsam ...	—	1	Sauce, Flag ...	—	1
Gelatine, Dessert ...	1	—	Semolina ...	1	—
Gelatine, Powdered ...	—	1	Spaghetti, Pearls ...	1	—
Gin ...	1	—	Squash, Orange ...	2	—
Ginger, Ground ...	—	1	Sweets, Marzipan ...	—	1
Honey, English ...	1	—	Syrup, Blackcurrant	1	—
Horseradish Relish ...	—	2	Tomato, Dainty Spread ...	—	1
Ice-cream ...	—	34	Tomato Juice ...	1	1
Jelly, Table Crystals ...	—	1	Vinegar ...	6	—
Jelmol ...	—	1	Whale Meat Pudding ...	—	1
Lard ...	2	—	Wine Raisin Flavour ...	1	—
Marinated Mussels ...	—	2			

*Number of samples taken during 1949 :*

Formal	...	...	190
Informal	...	...	77
Total	...	...	267

This represents 4.2 per 1,000 of the population, slightly in excess of the Ministry of Health requirements.

FIFTY-NINE SAMPLES WERE ADVERSELY REPORTED UPON BY THE PUBLIC ANALYST DURING THE YEAR, viz. :—

Sample No.	Description	Formal/ Informal	Result of Analysis	Remarks
161	Beef Sausage Meat	F	Slightly deficient in meat. No evidence of whalemear	Sausages alleged to contain whalemear. No trace found on analysis. Complainant informed, and vendor warned regarding deficiency in meat.
166	Milk	F	Seriously deficient in fat	Warning letter to Vendor
167	Milk	F	Slightly deficient in fat	Warning letter to Vendor
169	Milk	F	Slightly deficient in fat	25 Samples of milk were taken from this Vendor on the same day, following complaint from the wholesale purchaser that the milk was of poor quality. On the following day, a request from the vendor for "Appeal to Cow" samples to be taken was received.
173	Milk	F	Slightly deficient in fat	
174	Milk	F	Slightly deficient in fat	
175	Milk	F	Slightly deficient in fat	
176	Milk	F	Slightly deficient in fat	
192	Milk	F	Slightly deficient in fat	10 "Appeal to Cow" samples were taken following this request, and in addition 21 "Course of Delivery" samples were taken from producers supplying this Vendor.
194	Milk	F	Slightly deficient in fat	
195	Milk	F	Slightly deficient in fat	Of the 25 original samples, 5 were deficient in fat. 4 of the "Appeal to Cow" samples were also deficient in fat, as were 7 of the "Course of Delivery" samples.
201	Milk	F	Slightly deficient in fat	
204	Milk	F	Slightly deficient in fat	The results of all the samples were considered by the Public Health Committee, but in view of the deficiency of fat in several samples both in the "Appeal to Cow" and "Course of Delivery" samples from other producer's farms, it was decided not to institute legal proceedings.
205	Milk	F	Slightly deficient in fat	
210A	Milk	F	Slightly deficient in fat	
211A	Milk	F	Slightly deficient in fat	
212A	Milk	F	Slightly deficient in fat	
216	Milk	F	Slightly deficient in fat	
221	Milk	F	Slightly deficient in fat	

SAMPLES ADVERSELY REPORTED UPON—(continued).

Sample No.	Description	Formal/ Informal	Result of Analysis	Remarks
228	Milk	F	Slightly deficient in fat	19 samples were taken from this vendor following complaint from a wholesaler-purchaser of poor quality milk. Only 3 samples showed a slight deficiency in fat. A warning letter was sent to the Vendor.
231	Milk	F	Slightly deficient in fat	
233	Milk	F	Slightly deficient in fat	
242	Milk	F	Seriously deficient in fat	Immediately following result of Sample No. 242, "Appeal to Cow" samples were taken at the producer's farm. Of the four samples taken, two, Nos. 247 and 248, showed a deficiency of fat. No action could therefore be taken.
247	Milk	F	Deficient in fat	
248	Milk	F	Deficient in fat	
3577	Milk	I	Milk in very dirty condition, and bottle contained a piece of tarred road stone weighing nearly $\frac{1}{2}$ oz., also road dirt and grit.	Vendor, asked for explanation, stated dirt, stone, etc., unable to get inside bottle at dairy. Could only suggest bottle tampered with after it had left his premises. Warning letter sent to Vendor.
191	Sausages	I	Slightly deficient in meat	Warning letter to Vendor.
6	Milk	F	Slightly deficient in fat	Warning letter to Vendor.
7	Milk	F	Slightly deficient in fat	Warning letter to Vendor.
1325	Ice-cream	I	Bacteriological condition not entirely satisfactory.	Vendor notified as to Analyst's report.
24	Milk	F	Deficient in fat	Legal proceedings taken. Vendors both fined £2 with £1 6s. 3d. costs.
27	Milk	F	Slightly deficient in fat	Warning letter to Vendor.

Sample No.	Description	Formal/ Informal	Result of Analysis	Remarks
53	Milk	F	Deficient in fat	Following complaint of poor quality milk from the wholesale purchaser, 18 samples were taken from churns on the Vendor's Lorry prior to delivery. 9 samples were found to be deficient in fat. The churns on the Lorry were not labelled, and as this bulk milk was from five different farms, and it was understood some of the churns had been topped up at the Vendors farm, the involving of the Third Schedule of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, as requested by the Vendor, was not strictly in accordance with the Act. After consultation with the Town Clerk's Department and in view of the poor quality of the last "Appeal to Cow" samples it was decided not to proceed further in the matter.
54	Milk	F	Deficient in fat	
55	Milk	F	Deficient in fat	
56	Milk	F	Deficient in fat	
57	Milk	F	Deficient in fat	
58	Milk	F	Deficient in fat	
59	Milk	F	Deficient in fat	
61	Milk	F	Deficient in fat	
69	Milk	F	Deficient in fat	
75	Milk	F	Slightly deficient in fat	Warning letter sent to Vendor
37	Vinegar	F	Slightly deficient in Acetic Acid	Warning letter sent to Vendor.
41	Milk	F	Adulterated with extraneous water	Legal proceedings instituted. Fined £10 to include costs.
1331	Marinated Mussels (blown tin)	I	Insufficient sterilisation caused tins to become blown	These two tins of marinated mussels were taken from a consignment after receiving request for condemnation of the blown tins. Following the Analyst's report, the whole consignment of 36 dozen tins was condemned.
1332	Marinated Mussels (blown tin)	I		
1335	Ice-cream	I	Methylene Blue Test — Grade 2. B. Coli. present	Vendor notified of result, and visited by District Inspector
1338	Ice-cream	I	Methylene Blue Test — Grade 4. B. Coli. present, very unsatisfactory.	Vendor notified of result, and visited by District Inspector.



Sample No.	Description	Formal/ Informal	Result of Analysis	Remarks
1341	Ice-cream	I	Methylene Blue Test — Grade 4. High B. Coli. count	Vendor notified of result and visited by District Inspector.
49	Milk	F	Slightly deficient in fat	Warning letter sent to Vendor.
50	Sausage Meat	I	Slightly deficient in meat	Warning letter to Vendor.
51	Swedish Salad Cream	F	Does not contain egg yolk solids	Further sample taken — see No. 100
77	Fruit Pectin	F	Fruit pectin of poor quality. Using the manufacturer's setting test, it does not give a satisfactory result.	Warning letters sent to Vendor and manufacturer. Manufacturers agreed to withdraw all unsold stocks of this commodity, as over-pasteurisation had occurred during the manufacturing process.
1343	Ice-cream	I	Methylene Blue Test — Grade 4. Number of B. Coli too high	Vendor notified of report, and visited by District Inspector.
1345	Ice-cream	I	Methylene Blue Test — Grade 2. Number of B. Coli too high	Vendor notified of report, and visited by District Inspector.
1346	Ice-cream	I	Methylene Blue Test — Grade 1, but number of B. Coli too high.	Vendor notified of report and visited by District Inspector.
1348	Ice-cream	I	Methylene Blue Test — Grade 2. Number of B. Coli too high	Vendor notified of report and visited by District Inspector.
92	Milk	F	Slightly deficient in fat	Warning letter to Vendor.
94	Self-Raising Flour	F	Slightly deficient in available carbon dioxide.	Manufacturers warned of deficiency.
100	Swedish Salad Cream	F	Apparent deficiency of egg yolk solids	In view of the Analyst's report on the difficulties experienced in carrying out an analysis on such samples, it was decided to take no action.
135	Olive Oil	I	Acid value exceeded limit laid down.	Warning letter to both Vendors and Manufacturers.

**Note.**—Samples Nos. 1331 - 2 were submitted to the Cheltenham General Hospital, similar samples of the consignment also submitted to the Department of Preventive Medicine, Bristol.

## The Milk and Dairies Regulations 1949.

The coming into force of these Regulations on the 1st October, 1949, meant that all dairy farms in the Borough would henceforth be under the control of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. The Regulations, however, laid down that the local authority should remain responsible for keeping a register of all persons carrying on the trade of distributor in their district and of all premises within their district which are used as dairies, not being dairy farms.

The inspection of cattle, dairy farms, and all matters appertaining to the production of milk are, therefore, now the sole responsibility of the Ministry, but the general conveyance, distribution, storage, and handling of milk in the Borough is a matter for the Public Health Department, including also the provisions with regard to infection of milk, and those for protecting milk against contamination or infection.

Inspections of each dairy and milk shop in the Borough were carried out during the year and were all found to comply with the regulations as to cleanliness, etc. Generally the handling and distribution of milk was found to be most satisfactory. One cause of complaint, however, was the dumping of crates containing full bottles of milk on public highways, the bottom crates being at "Dog level," awaiting collection by the roundsman. These crates were also left unprotected from the sun and rain. A letter was sent to all the distributors in the Borough, also to one large milk distributing firm outside, drawing their attention to Paragraph 21 (3) of the regulations. No further complaint has since been notified in connection with this matter.

No. of Registered Milk Distributors in the Borough	...	63
No. of Registered Dairies in the Borough	... ..	29

## New Dairy

After considerable time spent awaiting the necessary permits and licences, a new model dairy has been erected by a local firm of milk distributors. The plans of the building were approved by this Department some years ago, and it is satisfying to note that the high standard of construction envisaged has not been "axed" by the Ministries concerned.

The building is not large, but is compact and well-designed. The equipment installed is also of a very satisfactory type. The proprietor is now installing the necessary equipment for two 100-gallon batch pasteurisers and it is hoped that this plant will be put into operation early in 1950.

Photographs of the dairy and installations are included in this report.

## Cowshed Re-Construction.

It is of interest to note that the last cowshed to be built at the Local Authority's instigation, was completed just prior to the coming into force of Milk and Dairies Regulations 1949. This was for the purpose of producing T.T. milk. A separate dairy was included with steriliser, cooler, and hot and cold supplies from an outside boiler.

The photographs shew the shed previously used and the new cowshed.







Interior of New Cowshed.





(a) View of dairy, showing detached boiler house and adjacent office.



(b) Bottle washing machine and steam steriliser for churns and utensils.



(c) Two positive holder pasteurisers, cooler, and bottle filing machine.



(d) Cold storage chamber for bottled milks.

## **THE MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATION) (PASTEURISED AND STERILISED MILK) REGULATIONS, 1949**

These Regulations, apart from increasing the amount of paper work required, did not materially alter the position with regard to the special designations already in use in the Borough. There are no Milk Sterilisation plants and the two Milk Pasteurisation establishments have been in operation for some considerable time. Another Pasteurisation Plant was under construction during the year but is not yet in operation.

The Regulations stated that, as from the 1st October, 1949, licences authorise the use of the designation only in respect of milk sold from the premises mentioned in the licence. Separate licences were, therefore, necessary in respect of separate premises. Hence, in the case of one large pasteurising establishment with numerous branches in the Borough receiving only one licence under the old regulations, it is now necessary to issue a Pasteurising licence to the pasteurising establishment and a separate Dealer's licence to use the special designation "Pasteurised" in relation to milk sold at or from each branch shop.

I am of the opinion that the introduction of the Regulations, together with the proposed specified areas, is a definite move in the right direction to reduce the number of deaths attributed to milk infected by tubercle bacillus. The foreshadowed procedure of pasteurisation in bottle and overlapping bottle cap is of paramount importance. My own experience with the present type of cardboard cover let into the neck of the bottle is that it provides an excellent well for the collection of dirt, dust and other foreign bodies whilst the bottles are in transit. On pouring the milk from the bottle to a jug, a considerable amount of this contamination may be swept into the jug with the milk. The overlapping cap would eliminate this, and together with the pasteurisation of the milk in bottle would ensure that, from the completion of the operation of bottling and capping, the contents would be free from any type of contamination whatsoever.

## **THE MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATION) (RAW MILK) REGULATIONS, 1949**

As with the Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949, the introduction of the above Regulations did not affect, to any great extent, the previous position as regards the use of these special designations in the Borough.

All dairies and milk shops are inspected prior to the issue of a licence to use the special designation "Tuberculin Tested" or "Accredited" milk the origin of production of the milk being checked in each case. In this respect, the co-operation of the County Milk Regulations Officer, of the Gloucestershire Agriculture Executive Committee, has been most helpful.

It is thought that the ultimate object of having only one special designation under these Regulations, i.e., "Tuberculin Tested" has much to commend it. Designations such as Grade "A", Certified, and Accredited, did, in my opinion, only lead to confusion in the minds of the public.



## SHOPS ACT, 1934

I think I may say in all confidence that few people realise the vast scope of the present day Sanitary Inspector's work. Not only has he duties under the Shops Act, but also under the many and varied branches of the Public Health, Food and Drugs, Housing and Factory Acts. It may be possible for the Inspector's to make routine inspections of each food shop in the Borough, twice a year, or even three times, certainly not more. It is true that the trader does not know when he may receive a visit, though he will, in most cases, maintain a reasonable standard of cleanliness, but the whole-hearted co-operation of both trader and public is necessary to obtain the essentially high standard which is most necessary in the handling and storage of food.

The provision of a sufficient number of clean white overalls, and head coverings, for persons employed has also been stressed, together with the necessity for frequent washing of the hands, particularly after using the lavatory.

Investigations were also carried out regarding the heating of shops during cold weather, and it was apparent that in a number of cases shops were inadequately heated. Assistants were observed wearing overcoats under their white smocks. It appears that traders are wary of heating their shops in case the perishable goods are spoiled.

The difficulty or impossibility of maintaining a reasonable temperature in open fronted shops is obvious. In one large fishmonger's shop, the proprietor has provided for the welfare of his employees by means of heating with an electric tubular unit fixed around the cash desk. At the time of inspection the desk was 52°F. compared with an outside temperature of 37°F. An arrangement was also made for the men handling the fish to go for 5 or 10 minute intervals, in a rota to suit themselves, to a basement room fitted with a gas fire.

### Wet Fish Shops

The long, dry summer of 1949 imposed a heavy strain on fishmongers. Few complaints, however, were received, and the fish shops were inspected regularly. The large majority of these shop keepers, by the installation of refrigerators, electric fans, water spraying, use of ice, and proper cleaning, endeavoured to expose for sale fish in an edible condition.



## CLEAN FOOD CAMPAIGN

During 1949, there was a steady and intensive campaign to improve the conditions under which food is prepared for the public, and to raise the general standard of the catering services in Cheltenham as a whole. This was combined with routine and additional inspections carried out by all the District Inspectors.

On January 14th I gave a special address on Food Hygiene to the local branch of the National Council of Women, and on the 17th February a similar address to the Women's Gas Council in Cheltenham.

During March a heavy programme of lectures was arranged to work in conjunction with a demonstration of modern gas appliances for the food trades and catering industries, and for this purpose letters of invitation were sent to tradespeople, to the Women's Institutes, to social and other services, and advertisements were placed in the local newspaper. Nearly eight hundred official programmes conveying essential information were sent direct by post to persons unable to attend. One large confectioner asked for one hundred leaflets to distribute to his employees.

The lectures were divided into groups, these dealt with restaurants, cafes, and caterers; grocers and provision merchants; hospital and institutionary catering and canteens; bakers, confectioners, and clubs; hotel catering staff; and the general public were invited to two lectures.

Local speakers during the March Campaign included Dr. D. E. Morley, M.D., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H., Medical Officer of Health, Cheltenham; Dr. T. B. Haslett, M.R.C.P., B.Sc., D.P.H., Pathologist, together with Dr. W. R. Perry, M.B., B.S., D.P.H., the Deputy Medical Officer of Health, and myself.

Lecturers from outside the Borough included the County and Borough Public Analyst, Mr. Rowland H. Ellis, F.I.C., F.C.S., Mr. F. J. Redstone, F.R.San.I., F.S.I.A., Chief Sanitary Inspector of Bristol, and Mr. Stewart Swift, M.B.E., F.R.San.I., F.S.I.A., Chief Sanitary Inspector of Oxford.

Mr. H. Stone, District Sanitary Inspector, was at this time, giving a series of evening lectures to butchers on the subject of the science of meat.

On the 25th October, there was in Cheltenham a Produce Exhibition sponsored by the Gloucestershire Women's Institute, and from the 31st October to the 5th November, an exhibition of all types of domestic and commercial electrical appliances by the Midland Electricity Board. At both these exhibitions a Food Hygiene stand was erected (Photo not included in report), and a District Sanitary Inspector was in attendance at all times. Special interest was taken by the public, and many interesting observations were heard. During the exhibitions classes from the local schools attended, and in two cases Domestic Science classes were given a short lecture.

In accordance with the requirements of the Ministry of Food, a report on the Clean Food Campaign was submitted to the Ministry.

## **TRAINING OF STUDENTS**

The Public Health Committee acceded to a request by the Chief Sanitary Inspector of the City of Portsmouth for my Department to give practical training over a period of six months to two students. This training was available to ex-service men under a Ministry of Labour and National Service Post-War course.

During their training the students accompanied the District Sanitary Inspectors to obtain first hand instruction on a Sanitary Inspector's duties. Apart from normal routine visits in connection with housing repairs, drainage alterations, complaints, nuisances, food preparation premises, cafes, hotels, bakehouses, etc., special visits were arranged to pasteurising establishments, dairies, ice-cream manufacturers, caravan sites, and lodging houses. Attendances at the Public Abattoir, visits to the Local Waterworks, and Sewage Disposal Plant, also formed part of the course, and instruction was given on the preparation of plans, specifications, and reports. They were also given a brief outline of the administrative work of a Public Health Department, and attended a Council Meeting.

## **PUBLIC ABATTOIR**

### **Meat Transport**

Representations made early in the preceding year protesting against the use of the old canvas-covered trucks used for the conveyance of meat from the Abattoir and the Cold Stores to the various butchers' shops, has met with considerable success. During the year the whole of the fleet serving the Borough was converted to insulated vans with proper hanging equipment specially designed for this type of work.

### **Slaughtermen's Washing and Changing Room.**

This year has seen the commencement of a new Changing Room for the use of the Slaughtermen engaged at the Abattoir. Lockers will be provided for the men's clothing, and two sinks with hot and cold water, and the room will be adequately heated to facilitate the drying of clothing. Some delay has occurred due to the difficulties of obtaining the necessary apparatus, but completion is anticipated early in 1950.

### **Licensed Slaughterhouses**

One licence in respect of a Slaughterhouse was issued during 1949, though no slaughtering is carried on at these premises.

### **Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933**

Twenty-eight applications for renewal of Slaughtermen's Licences under the above Act were received, and granted during the year.

## BOVINE TUBERCULOSIS IN COWS

*Total number of Cows, 857.*

Number of Heads only affected	...	...	...	47	5.48%
Number of Lungs only affected	...	...	...	88	10.26%
Number of Livers only affected	...	...	...	2	0.23%
Number of Mesenteries only affected	...	...	...	17	1.98%
Number of Heads and Lungs only affected	...	...	...	21	2.45%
Number of Heads and Mesenteries only affected	...	...	...	8	0.93%
Number of Heads and Livers only affected	...	...	...	1	0.11%
Number of Lungs and Mesenteries only affected	...	...	...	13	1.51%
Number of Lungs and Livers only affected	...	...	...	11	1.28%
Number of Lungs and Udders only affected	...	...	...	1	0.11%
Number of Heads, Lungs and Mesenteries only affected	...	...	...	4	0.46%
Number of Heads, Lungs, and Livers only affected	...	...	...	2	0.23%
Number of Lungs, Mesenteries and Livers only affected	...	...	...	3	0.35%
Number of Heads, Lungs, Livers and Mesenteries	...	...	...	4	0.46%
Number All organs (No part Carcase)	...	...	...	11	1.28%
Number where part carcase condemned	...	...	...	3	0.35%
Number carcasses condemned (Emaciation)	...	...	...	9	1.05%
Number carcasses condemned fairly good and good condition	...	...	...	36	4.21%
				<hr/> 281	<hr/> 32.78%

The above data give the percentage of the organs or groups of organs found to be infected with Tuberculosis in cows during the past year. It will be noted that lung infestation is by far the highest and that the total heads, organs, etc., affected with Tuberculosis reaches the percentage of 32.78%. This figure raises great concern when one considers that a lot of these animals would be giving milk that quite possibly was not subjected to any form of heat treatment. I do not infer that all of them would be giving tuberculous milk but even so the number of carcasses condemned for Tuberculosis is alarming.

## Carcases Inspected and Condemned at Cheltenham Public Abattoir.

Yearly Summary Ending :—December 31st, 1949.

	Total	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
No. killed ... ..	20641	2324	857	3782	12944	734
No. inspected ... ..	20641	2324	857	3782	12944	734
<b>All diseases except Tuberculosis</b> Whole carcases condemned	77	2	19	23	23	10
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	1747	559	476	28	439	245
Percentage of the No. in- spected affected with disease other than tuber- culosis ... ..	8.83	24.13	57.76	1.34	3.56	34.6
<b>Tuberculosis only</b> Whole carcases condemned	55	8	45	—	—	2
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	413	134	236	1	—	42
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with tuber- culosis ... ..	2.26	6.11	32.78	0.02	—	5.99



## CARCASSES CONDEMNED AS TOTALLY UNFIT FOR HUMAN FOOD 1949

Species	T.B.	Bruising and Injuries	Emaciation Gen. Debility and Dropsy	Mori- bund	Pyæmia	Swine Erysipelas	Im- mature	Jaundice	Abscesses& Inflam- ation	Abnormal Pathological Condition	Septi- caemia	Totals
Bulls	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cows	45	2	7	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	10	67
Heifers	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	8
Steer	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Calves	-	1	-	4	9	-	7	1	1	-	-	23
Sheep	-	4	5	11	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	22
Pigs	2	-	1	3	-	1	-	-	4	1	1	13
Totals	54	7	13	20	9	1	7	2	7	1	13	134

**Percentages of Animals Slaughtered during 1940-1949 found to be  
affected with T.B. (Cheltenham Abattoir).**

Year	Cattle exclud. Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep	Pigs
1940	6.98%	30.24%	0.08%	—	6.73%
1941	10.15%	24.05%	0.11%	0.003%	8.56%
1942	7.05%	29.38%	0.07%	—	10.62%
1943	9.4%	35.98%	0.079%	0.004%	7.64%
1944	6.05%	34.91%	0.09%	—	6.77%
1945	7.26%	32.49%	0.09%	—	5.75%
1946	7.46%	33.81%	0.04%	—	6.45%
1947	5.20%	30.84%	0.06%	—	8.72%
1948	7.01%	30.53%	0.02%	—	9.00%
1949	6.11%	32.78%	0.02%	—	5.99%
Over whole period	7.53%	32.16%	0.068%	0.001%	7.406%
No. of Animals	31,081	12,002	51,308	191,777	17,822
GRAND TOTAL ...					303,990

## Total Weights of Meat and Organs condemned, 1948.

## Public Abattoir.

	Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	lbs	Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	lbs.
					Total			
Beef in Carcase	16	4	1	22	18	14	3	26
Beef not in Carcase	2	10	2	4				
Veal in Carcase	—	8	3	7				
Veal not in Carcase	—	—	—	12				
Mutton in Carcase	—	11	3	26	14	0	9	
Mutton not in Carcase	—	2	0	11				
Pork in Carcase	—	5	1	17				
Pork not in Carcase	—	8	0	25				
Total Meat					20	11	2	12
Total Organs					19	13	2	10
Total Meat and Organs					40	5	0	22

**PARTICULARS OF MEAT AND OTHER FOODSTUFFS EXAMINED  
AND REJECTED AS UNFIT FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION**

Miscellaneous Tinned Foods				Tins	Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	lbs.
Barley Crystals	...	...	...	2				1
Chocolate Spread	...	...	...	1				1
Christmas Pudding	...	...	...	4				4
Chutney	...	...	...	9				6
Coffee	...	...	...	1				1
Dried Egg	...	...	...	2				1
Fish	...	...	...	1096		5	3	6
Frozen Egg	...	...	...	2			2	22
Fruit	...	...	...	354		6	0	21
Goose Liver Paté	...	...	...	1				1
Honey	...	...	...	1				1
Jam	...	...	...	88		1	0	25
Juice	...	...	...	1				1
Liquid Egg	...	...	...	1			1	12
Marmalade	...	...	...	85		1	1	18
Marmite	...	...	...	2				1
Meat	...	...	...	464		9	0	18
Milk	...	...	...	647		5	3	10
Mincemeat	...	...	...	5				5
Paste	...	...	...	79			1	14
Piccalilli	...	...	...	1				1
Pickles	...	...	...	14				14
Puddings	...	...	...	13				11
Salad Cream	...	...	...	1				1
Sandwich Spread	...	...	...	1				1
Sauce	...	...	...	2				2
Soup	...	...	...	157		1	2	2
Spaghetti	...	...	...	20				20
Sweet Puddings	...	...	...	1				1
Syrup	...	...	...	5				6
Tomato Juice	...	...	...	2				2
Vegetables	...	...	...	1023		12	1	13
Total				4085	2	5	2	19
<b>Flour and Cereals</b>								
Breakfast Flakes	...	...	...					2
Flour	...	...	...					6
Kellogs All Bran	...	...	...					1
Macaroni	...	...	...					14
Oatmeal	...	...	...					2
Oats	...	...	...					2
Puddings Mixture	...	...	...					1
Ryvita	...	...	...					5
Shredded Wheat	...	...	...					1
Total				...			1	6



					Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	lbs.
<b>Dried Fruit</b>								
Currants	...	...	...	...				1
Dates	...	...	...	...				11
Dried Figs	...	...	...	...			1	9
Figs	...	...	...	...			2	16
Total				...		1	0	9
<b>General</b>								
Bacon	...	...	...	...		1	3	6
Beetroot	...	...	...	...				2
Bovril	...	...	...	...				2
Butter and Margarine	...	...	...	...		4	1	27
Cake	...	...	...	...				10
Candied Peel	...	...	...	...				11
Cheese	...	...	...	...		2	2	5
Chitterlings	...	...	...	...				3
Chocolate Spread	...	...	...	...				2
Christmas Pudding	...	...	...	...				1
Coffee	...	...	...	...				1
Coffee Essence	...	...	...	...				1
Cooked Meat	...	...	...	...				6
Cordial, Mineral Waters etc.,	...	...	...	...				26
Crumpets	...	...	...	...				5
Custard Powder and Custard Flavour	...	...	...	...				4
Dried Egg	...	...	...	...				24
Dried Peas	...	...	...	...			2	8
Eggs	...	...	...	...		9	2	6
English Meat	...	...	...	...		5	1	13
Fat	...	...	...	...		1	3	13
Fish Cake	...	...	...	...				2
Fish Fresh	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	5
Fish Preserved	...	...	...	...	1	5	2	18
French Mustard	...	...	...	...				1
Fruit	...	...	...	...			2	8
Game	...	...	...	...			1	24
Ginger	...	...	...	...				4
Gravy Browning	...	...	...	...				1
Horseradish	...	...	...	...				1
Ice-cream	...	...	...	...				5
Ice-cream Powder	...	...	...	...				20
Imported Meat	...	...	...	...		9	0	14
Jam	...	...	...	...				23
Lemon Barley Crystals	...	...	...	...				1
Lemon Cheese	...	...	...	...				1
Lime Juice	...	...	...	...				1
Carried forward				...	4	4	2	25

			Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	lbs.
Brought Forward	...	...	4	4	2	25
Liver	...	...				10
Locus Beans	...	...		4	3	24
Luncheon Meat	...	...				1
Lung Tonic	...	...				1
Marmalade	...	...				3
Marmite	...	...				5
Melba Toast	...	...				1
Minced Meat	...	...				1
Mussels	...	...				1
Onions	...	...				1
Paste	...	...				4
Pastry Mixture	...	...				1
Pickles	...	...		2	1	20
Pickled Herring	...	...				18
Pies	...	...			1	5
Poultry (including imported)	...	...		1	0	7
Pudding	...	...				6
Pudding Mixture	...	...				7
Prawns	...	...		3	0	27
Rabbits and Hares	...	...		5	3	13
Roes	...	...		2	1	1
Rose Hip Syrup	...	...				1
Salad	...	...				14
Salad Cream	...	...				3
Salt	...	...				1
Salted Celery	...	...				4
Sandwich Spread	...	...				4
Sauce	...	...				22
Sausages	...	...		2	0	3
Soup Powder	...	...				10
Sugar	...	...				23
Sweets and Chocolate	...	...				8
Tea	...	...				1
Tomatoes	...	...				2
Veg. Tomato Links	...	...				7
Vinegar	...	...				5
Total	...	...	5	8	1	10
GRAND TOTAL	...	...	7	15	1	16

**Note.**—In addition to the visits made by District Sanitary Inspectors to inspect and condemn the above foodstuffs, 423 additional visits had to be made with the Departments Van for the purpose of collection of the large quantities of food, including a large number of condemned tinned foods.

## RODENT CONTROL SECTION

In presenting statistics of the work carried out by the Infestation Section of the Health Department it would be as well to emphasise that this work is not only concerned with destruction of rats, but also of mice, beetles, wasps, flies, and other pests. At the Town Forum held in November, 1949, in the Town Hall, Cheltenham, the question was raised as to the cost of catching each rat in Cheltenham. The audience was reminded that we do not catch rats but destroy them. It was abundantly clear that the public little realise the importance of keeping the town clear of rats as far as practicable. Neither do they appreciate the immense amount of damage to food, buildings, roads and sewers, caused by these pests. The cost of destroying rats is very small in comparison with the cost of allowing them to live, and the success of any treatment is not in the number of rats destroyed, but in the clearance of rats so that none remain ; hence it is not the dead but the living which are the concern of the Section.

In view of this assertion it is reasonable to ask why, after years of Rodent Control, the town is not free from rats. The answer is, of course, that rats migrate in October or November from the surrounding rural areas to find suitable Winter quarters, and do not always leave the town in the Spring. Their routes are usually the numerous brooks, such as Wymans, Hatherley, Lilleybrook, and the Chelt, with their many unnamed tributaries. Along the banks of all these streams rats find ideal homes, usually near buildings where food can be found. These streams are frequently inspected and treated, thus preventing major infestations of surrounding buildings.

As the question of costs has arisen, it may be of interest to explain the position.

A free service for destruction of rats is given to occupiers of dwelling houses conditional on there being no contributory negligence ; on cost of which the Ministry make a 50% Grant. In the case of mice and other pests the cost is rechargeable. Half the cost of work on Local Authority premises and the Sewers is paid by the Ministry, who also contribute a similar amount in respect of expenses incurred in Administration and work necessary for the efficient execution of Rodent Control.

Treatment at business premises must not fall on public funds, the total cost being recoverable.

## COMPLAINTS

	Rats	Mice	Beetles	Wasps	Flies	Other Pests	Total
January	37	21	—	—	1	1	60
February	25	24	1	—	—	2	52
March	24	16	2	—	—	2	44
April	29	22	3	—	1	2	57
May	29	24	5	—	—	5	63
June	33	16	6	7	—	2	64
July	30	18	2	34	—	7	91
August	34	27	2	47	—	3	113
September	35	20	3	20	2	3	83
October	39	17	2	2	3	2	65
November	48	29	5	1	3	3	89
December	30	14	1	—	—	—	45
	393	248	32	111	10	32	826
%	47.5	30	4	13.4	1.2	4	

## Remarks

From the above figures it will be observed that, of the complaints received, over half relate to mice, beetles and other pests.

The Infestation section do not restrict their activities to rodent control, but are prepared to deal with other pests as well.

## Treatments

Following complaints as listed above, treatments were carried out at 420 dwelling houses and 112 business premises for the destruction of rats and mice.

In the year under review 89 premises were cleared of wasps and hornets, and, in addition, 10 nests on Local Authority property and on public highways were destroyed.

During this period 11 premises were cleared of flies. Owing to the abnormal weather, complaints were received in September, October and November, that flies were hatching out in large numbers. These complaints received immediate attention. In addition to these, the infestation section successfully dealt with beetles, ants, badgers, moles and rabbits at the request of occupiers.

These figures do not include work done at business premises under annual agreement nor on Local Authority property. These are dealt with separately.



## INSPECTIONS, 1949

Month			Dwelling Houses	Business Premises	Premises under Agreement	Local Authority Property	Total
January	...	...	319	67	115	77	578
February	...	...	253	88	112	60	513
March	...	...	340	57	148	113	658
April	...	...	382	82	136	74	674
May	...	...	284	125	129	98	636
June	...	...	303	57	123	61	544
July	...	...	433	88	108	92	721
August	...	...	366	47	124	72	609
September	...	...	395	67	178	122	762
October	...	...	294	79	163	97	633
November	...	...	446	124	95	110	775
December	...	...	379	49	189	123	740
Total			4194	930	1620	1099	7843

## Remarks

In considering the number of inspections made, it must be borne in mind that columns 3 and 4 both relate to business premises, so the total number of inspections at business premises amounts to 2,550. It is customary to arrange agreements with business premises where infestations of rats, mice, or beetles are serious, and re-infestation likely to occur, owing to the nature of the business carried on, and/or the state of the premises. Very many of the old buildings in Cheltenham cannot be made rat and mouse proof at a reasonable cost. As an alternative Occupiers enter into an agreement with the Local Authority, which enables any re-infestation to be dealt with before it becomes serious. Other business premises, which can be cleared with reasonable celerity are treated as individual jobs. Private Dwelling Houses are treated individually, but when rats are found on premises, inspection of the surrounding property is carried out, hence the number of inspections made.

## ANNUAL UNDERTAKINGS OR AGREEMENTS

1945		1946		1947		1948-9		1949	
No.	Value	No.	Value	No.	Value	No.	Value	No.	Value
25	£411	27	£422/10	39	£563	46	£659	47	£661

## Remarks

It is pleasing to note that roughly 80% of the agreements are renewals, shewing clearly that the occupiers concerned are satisfied with the work carried out on their premises.

The analysis of pests covered by the various agreements shews that rats are dealt with under 30 agreements, mice under 35 agreements, and beetles under 11 agreements.

## LOCAL AUTHORITY PROPERTY

The position at the Abattoir is satisfactory, but frequently re-infestations have had to be dealt with. The rats mainly live in the banks of the Chelt, and in the stables, consequently both the River and the Abattoir have to be treated.

There is a certain amount of trouble from defective sewers, but thanks to the prompt co-operation of the Borough Surveyor's Department, this trouble is being reduced. With regard to the sewers themselves the general position is satisfactory, but there is a "hard core" of infestation within a restricted area.

The Ministry lay down that Sewer Maintenance Treatments are to be carried out at six monthly intervals, and make a grant for these two treatments. Within the restricted area referred to, it would appear desirable that treatments should be more frequent, and it is hoped that the Ministry will agree to four treatments instead of two per annum.

Hayden Sewage Farm and adjacent "lagoons" call for frequent treatments to prevent major infestations, consequently the Infestation Section make it a rule to inspect regularly and to treat as required.

River and streams throughout the area are a continuous source of trouble. As previously mentioned, they facilitate the migration of rats to and from this town. In many places the waterways are in a filthy condition, particularly the Chelt behind Moors Estate, and Wyman's Brook by the "Prefab" Estate, off Prior's Road. It is also found that the Chelt at Sandford Park from time to time harbours infestations of rats, which find ample food left in the shelters; to a lesser extent the same happens in Pittville Park. To keep all the streams and the Chelt clear entails much work, and if infestations were not dealt with there, we should soon have serious complaints from adjacent property owners or tenants.

## PROSECUTIONS

During 1949, Court proceedings were taken in three cases. The brief details of each case, together with the findings of the Court are as follows :—

### Case No. 1.—Milk

A sample of milk, purchased from a distributor, was found on analysis to contain 2.21% fat content.

The Vendors, partners, were both fined £2, and £1 6s. 3d. costs for selling milk to the prejudice of the purchaser.

**Case No. 2.—Unsatisfactory condition of Hotel Kitchen, Scullery and Larder.**

Ten summonses were brought against the proprietor of a hotel under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, respecting non-compliance with requirements in connection with the state and condition of the kitchen, scullery and larder, used for the deposit and preparation of food at the hotel.

Eight of the summonses related to rooms where food intended for human consumption was deposited for preparation for sale or where food was prepared for sale, and two summonses for failure to take steps to prevent risk of contamination of food.

On inspection on June 28th, 1949, the general state of the preparation and storage rooms was dirty and dilapidated, loaves of bread were exposed on the shelves in the larder in proximity to a quantity of mice excreta scattered on the shelves. The owner stated in Court that the dirt on the walls and ceilings of the kitchen premises was the ingrained dirt of years. In a corner of the kitchen some sacks of pig meal were situated, behind and on which were mice excreta ; when one of the sacks was moved a mouse ran out.

Six of the ten summonses relating to the condition of these rooms were dismissed by the Magistrates, four of them under the Probation of Offenders Act, on payment of ten guineas costs ; four other summonses were adjourned until December 1st, some five and a half months later. The Chairman said that, in the main, the Cheltenham Corporation was justified, in bringing the case, but he considered that it was not by any means a bad case.

**Case No. 3.—Milk**

A sample of milk, purchased from a distributor, shewed on analysis that it had in it extraneous water to the extent of 14.8%.

The Vendor, for selling milk to the prejudice of the purchaser, was fined £10 to include costs.

## CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR'S STAFF, 1949

### TECHNICAL STAFF

<i>Deputy Chief Sanitary Inspector</i>	J. F. Ursell, M.I.San.E., F.S.I.A., M.R.San.I., D.P.A.*†
<i>District Inspectors</i>	A. L. Jones, M.S.I.A., San.Science R.S.I.*† H. Stone, M.S.I.A.*† W. L. Booy, M.R.San.I., A.Inst. Housing*† G. J. C. Buck. M.S.I.A., A.R.San.Inst.†
<i>Pupil</i>	R. J. Wintle.

### ABATTOIR

<i>Meat Inspector</i>	F. Keene, Cert. R.San.I.*
<i>Superintendent</i>	T. Agg.
<i>Carter</i>	R. Wiggett.
<i>Stoker</i>	H. Gram.

\* Certified Meat and Foods Inspector, R.S.I.

† S.I.E.J.B. Certificate

### DISINFECTION AND DISINFESTATION

<i>Disinfection Officer</i>	G. Cross.
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### DRAIN-TESTING, ETC.

<i>Operator</i>	W. Taylor.
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### RODENT CONTROL

<i>Pests Officer</i>	A. Anson
<i>Assistant Pests Officer</i>	F. Harrison-Smith
<i>Operators</i>	T. A. Foster C. E. Illott

### CLERICAL STAFF

<i>Senior Clerk</i>	W. H. G. Meakins
<i>Chief Sanitary Inspector's Secretary</i>	Miss M. D. Heynes
<i>Junior Clerk</i>	Miss M. E. J. Edden.